

THE TIMES

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DPP boss decides to bow out early to ease in the changes



Dame Barbara: "it was my decision to go"

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DAME Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, announced yesterday she will leave her post early ending weeks of speculation about her future as head of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The abrupt announcement, made without warning, comes just two weeks before publication of a major report into the service which is expected to contain a damning indictment of the organisation.

It also marks the climax of a fiercely-fought Whitehall battle by

the DPP for her £100,000 a year job as head of the service, a post she has held since April 1992, until her contract expires next April.

Instead a new DPP will be advertised for and she will stay only until a successor is found.

Ministers privately believed that the much-delayed report by Sir Iain Glidewell, which will recommend an overhaul of the service and the way it is run, made her position untenable. In recent weeks Dame Barbara, 57, has contested drafts of the report, seeking to ensure her side was put and amassing counter-statistics.

A senior civil servant, Dame

Barbara is believed to have sought legal advice about her position from Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary. One Whitehall source, asked if she had put up a fight, said: "That's the understatement of the century."

Yesterday Dame Barbara said her departure had nothing to do with the Glidewell report. "I have not been pushed out, I am not resigning. I have made a decision — and it is my decision — that it would be better for my successor to be appointed when the new procedures and arrangements are coming in." She said she had been thinking about the decision for some time. "I

decided it was much more in the interests of the CPS that I should tell the Attorney-General my decision." It was better, she added, to have an "orderly hand over" to the new DPP.

Dame Barbara suggested to John Morris, QC, the Attorney-General, and he agreed, that the search for her successor should begin now.

Mr Morris paid tribute to Dame Barbara's strong and positive leadership and the Prime Minister's official spokesman said Mr Blair thought she had done an extremely good job. But privately ministers believed she could not survive the report in to the workings of the

service. Among its recommendations are expected to be the creation of a new chief executive to oversee the administration of the Crown Prosecution Service.

The service is expected to be reorganised into 42 areas, breaking up the current 13 regions and making it more locally accountable.

Sir Iain Glidewell, a former Court of Appeal judge, was appointed by Mr Morris in June last year to conduct an independent inquiry into the workings of the service because of ministers' concern over falling convictions when crime was rising. It is thought that although Sir Iain's report, likely to be

published shortly after Parliament's Whitsun recess, will not be a personal attack on Dame Barbara, it will list a string of criticisms of the organisation she has presided over for six years.

Fred Broughton, national chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, said they had long been "highly critical" of the CPS. Sergeant Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation — who has dubbed the CPS "Criminal Protection Society" — welcomed the news: "She should have gone a long time ago."

Abrupt end, page 2

MPs angry over newspaper deals

Freed nurse to face trial in Britain

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MICHAEL BINYON AND ROGER MAYNARD

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN, one of the two British nurses who will arrive in London today after being freed from jail in Saudi Arabia, has been summoned to appear in a Scottish court next month charged with stealing £1,740 from a dying Aids patient.

The Procurator Fiscal in Dundee obtained a warrant citing her to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court on June 18 after learning yesterday that she was coming home.

McLauchlan, 32, and Deborah Parry, 39, were released from prison in Dammam yesterday, after being held for 17 months for the murder of fellow nurse Yvonne Gilford. King Fahd issued an order commuting their sentence, but their convictions have not been overturned.

The women will fly back to a bitter row over the deals their families have signed with two national newspapers and the Press Complaints Commission has been asked to intervene to prevent them being paid a reported £125,000 each



"Next time I'm going to commit a crime I can flog to a newspaper"

Tuesday evening, said that he had received an "avalanche" of offers from television, radio, book publishers and film companies. "If the diaries contain what I have been told they contain, they will be sensational," he said, adding that he believed in the women's innocence and would not be involved if he did not.

Mr Morgan said: "In our view this is a clear cut case of miscarriage of justice. There was no real evidence against them and their confessions were beaten out of them through physical and sexual abuse. We have paid Lucille McLauchlan a substantial sum to provide some small compensation for two years spent in primitive, barbaric conditions. There is obvious and compelling public interest in this story, and because we believe her to be innocent there is no breach of the Press Complaints Commission Code of Conduct."

"If she was guilty of murder, would the Prime Minister have gone to such lengths to intervene and get her released? As to George Galloway's ludicrous statement, I don't think we need to defend our ethical and moral position to a man who spends his lunchtime cosying up to Saddam Hussein and his evenings dining with Colonel Gaddafi."

The two nurses have been held since December 1996 for the murder of Miss Gilford. Parry was convicted last August of stabbing Miss Gilford and was sentenced to death. McLauchlan was held to be an accessory and sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes. Parry escaped beheading after Miss Gilford's brother, Frank, agreed to accept \$1.1 million "blood money".

The money is being held in Australia and Mr Gilford's lawyer has called for it to be paid immediately.

Mr Gilford said: "I reckon they should honour their deal," adding that he had no feelings about the nurses' release. But his wife, Laurel, said: "It is just maddening that they have got off, but nothing we can say can bring Yvonne back."

Nurse's past, page 3
Leading article, page 23



Liza Minnelli arriving for the vigil service for Frank Sinatra on Tuesday night

Sinatra's final farewell

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FRANK SINATRA was buried next to his parents last night after a private funeral and a packed vigil at which he was remembered as a great man — if not always a good one.

His coffin bedecked by a thousand white gardenias, Sinatra's final journey began on Tuesday night on the shoulders of friends and fel-

low performers. Several generations of Hollywood luminaries — among them Kirk Douglas, Jack Lemmon, Liza Minnelli, Tom Selleck and Diana Ross — followed the casket into the lavishly decorated Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Beverly Hills.

As they passed between the pillars garlanded with ivy and white roses, mourners were

handed memorial cards with a photograph of a smiling Sinatra holding a puppy on one side, and the prayer of St Francis of Assisi on the other.

Inside, his fellow balladeer Tony Bennett told the congregation of several hundred that Sinatra "studied the human condition, and that's what he put in his music", while Cardinal Roger Mahoney said in his homily that Sinatra's greatness came from being able to see beyond his own struggles and failings and encourage others to follow suit.

Many of those at the vigil returned to the church yesterday for the funeral, which was followed by burial at the Desert Memorial Park near Palm Springs. The coffin was draped with an American flag and accompanied by a military guard of honour.



Minnelli in one of her last appearances with Sinatra

Blair puts five pledges in writing to Unionists

By PHILIP WEBSTER, MARTIN FLETCHER AND AUDREY MAGEE

WAVERING Unionists were offered a signed pledge by Tony Blair last night as polls suggested that they might be swinging back behind the peace accord.

As Northern Ireland prepared to cast the most important vote in its 77-year history tomorrow, the Prime Minister made five promises on the issues most worrying Unionists. Those handwritten promises formed the backdrop for his final campaign speech in the predominantly Protestant town of Coleraine, and will be unveiled in poster form in Belfast today.

Emphasising his position as Prime Minister of the entire United Kingdom, Mr Blair solemnly promised that those who used or threatened violence would be excluded from Northern Ireland's government, and that terrorist prisoners would not be released unless violence was permanently renounced.

Mr Blair, who arrived with William Hague to stress cross-party support for the accord, also pledged no change in the province's constitutional position without majority consent, devolved powers, and fairness and equality for all.

The Prime Minister's personal guarantee was unprecedented, according to political historians, but had obvious resonance for Unionists.

In 1912 Edward Carson, the

Continued on page 2, col 5
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Because of the quality, range and value of The Times, its sales have more than doubled in the past four years, particularly among young readers and the affluent ABC1s.

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Drama team quits Arts Council

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Arts Council's entire Drama Advisory Panel, including some of the most distinguished figures in the theatre, resigned last night because they said they faced being turned into "token luvvies" by their new leadership.

In a letter to The Times today, the panel's members state that they feared that a planned overhaul of the Arts Council would lead to arts practitioners being sidelined in favour of the new executive, which is led by Gerry Robinson, the businessman who took over as chairman on May 1. The letter's signatories include Thelma Holt, the producer, Alan Ayckbourn, the playwright, the directors Sam Mendes and Michael Atten-

borough and Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse. Ms Holt, who was chairman of the panel, said last night that Mr Robinson "clearly knows nothing about the arts".

The letter states that the panel feared that funding decisions would be made by a "cultural bureaucracy less accountable, less accessible, and increasingly remote from the artists and audiences which the Arts Council exists to fund, develop and encourage".

The Arts Council annually distributes almost £400 million. Last night Mr Robinson said in a statement that the organisation regretted Ms Holt's resignation.

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Whoops! My turn to creep after case of mistaken identity



Savidge: the real creep

OUR MPs' failings are famous but the breed also has virtues and these are less well known. Unlike peers, MPs almost never complain to journalists about being insulted or abused in print. If it hurts only a few let it show, most regarding name-calling as part of the job: they dish it out and, on the whole, they can take it. In a decade of reporting the Commons, this sketchwriter can count on the fingers of one hand those MPs who have ever been seriously unpleasant about anything I have written, and that is not because the sketch is always kind or fair. It is not. Errors of fact creep in too,

hopefully not too often. Take yesterday... Malcolm Savidge MP, who turned 52 a fortnight ago, is a new Scottish Labour backbencher. With a shortish face, a wide forehead, spectacles, a friendly expression and receding hair, Mr Savidge won Aberdeen North last May. Ross Cranston MP, a new Scottish Labour backbencher, will be 50 this July. With a shortish face, a wide forehead, spectacles, a friendly expression and receding hair, Mr Cranston won Dudley North last May. Yesterday I accused Mr Cranston of being a creep. A



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

respected, balding, Scottish Labour backbencher asked Scottish Office ministers to outline the impact that government policy was having on hospital provision in north Scotland. It was Mr Savidge. I expected quite a rocket from Cranston, and opened the envelope with a green portulivus crest with trepidation. But Cranston had written me the mildest, nicest of notes. His words were not intended

for publication but he will not mind: "Wrong person! Actually at the time I was with 50 vaccine damaged children and parents. They are a forgotten people and have a great deal of justice on their side. Any help you can give this would be appreciated. Yours sincerely, Ross." I rang him to apologise. "Easy mistake," he said. "I'll try to correct it in a future sketch," I said.

"Don't bother," he said. My postbag contained another letter from an MP, Patrick Nicholls (C, Teignbridge). This sketch is consistently rude about Mr Nicholls. On Monday he had made a plea for understanding for President Suharto. Yesterday's sketch implied that Nicholls's opinion was absurd, that he might as well apologise for Stalin and Pol Pot—and described him as a terrier-like fellow whom history was unlikely to judge kindly. My letter from Nicholls thanked me, tongue-in-cheek, for the publicity, made no complaint about my personal

remarks but returned with polite insistence to his argument, which was that, for all his failings, Suharto had achieved more than it was fashionable at present to allow. The MP asked me to think about what he had actually said, rather than the way the House had chosen to take it. We mock our politicians a great deal. I make a living by it. It is worth reflecting, sometimes, that this is an assembly of men and women who are paid less than many journalists, who work hard, who take a lot of knocks, and who often mean what they say and are doing their best.



Cranston: a good sport

Matters of style oust 'Commissar Babs'

Frances Gibb looks back on the rise and fall of woman who ruled over failure at prosecution service

THE abrupt early retirement of Dame Barbara Mills will be seen as a humiliating end to one of the most high-profile careers in the legal system. As with her predecessor, Sir Allan Green, who resigned as Director of Public Prosecutions in disgrace after being stopped allegedly kerb-crawling, stewardship of the prosecution system seems to have turned into a poisoned chalice. In her six years, she has become synonymous with the worst aspects of the Crown Prosecution Service: its overblown, top-heavy bureaucracy, its poor morale and intimidatory civil service mentality where everyone must toe the line. She has also become widely disliked for an abrasive and bossy management style which earned her the nickname of "Babs the Commissar" among barristers who were once her colleagues but grew to regard her almost as a traitor. Dame Barbara came to the post of Director of Public Prosecutions six years ago, amid much trumpeting because she was the first woman to be appointed to the job. Before that, she had been head of the Serious Fraud Office but left before she attracted much of the stigma of its series of failed prosecutions. She was a successful QC—

she prosecuted Michael Fagan, who broke into Buckingham Palace; defended Winston Silcott, charged with the murder of PC Keith Blakelock and was one of the chief prosecutors in the Guinness trial. It was not long before lawyers were accusing her of losing faith with the tenets of the Bar and the need for a fair and effective justice system where the prosecution and defence cards are evenly stacked. Nor did they like her ambitions to win the right for her own prosecutors to bring cases in the crown court. The job of DPP was never going to be an easy one: the Crown Prosecution Service, then just five years old, had got off to a lame start with inadequate funding and a shortage of lawyers. Dame Barbara succeeded in beefing up its central organisation, issued national standards to bring uniformity of performance and was zealous in promoting her new brief, right or wrong, although wrong is never admitted. One observer said: "Barbara is very can-do. Whatever she is asked, she will do it. But

sometimes she should have stood back and said — this is not what should be done." Gradually her new tough can-do management style began to rebound. Lawyers resented being turned into pen-pushers and being removed from their core work of making decisions on prosecutions. Her detractors say that she has become a pure bureaucrat, swamping the service with management dictates and form-filling. A MORI poll based on views of two thirds of the lawyers in the service in 1996 found staff demoralised about the new management culture, their excessive workloads and emphasis on administration. The ratings, MORI said, were the worst it had ever polled among 400 organisations in 40 years. Within weeks of assuming office, the new Home Secretary and Attorney General made clear they were turning their sights on the CPS, chiefly because of concern over what looked like as fall of one third in the rate of convictions against a background of rising crime. They also announced a reorganisation of the service, to break up its large 13 areas and create smaller regions in line with police force areas—a move which effectively ditched a reform brought in by Dame Barbara herself when she cut the number of areas from 31 to 13—reform, she said at the time, that was vital for the future. Within three months, she was fighting for her future when the High Court last July castigated her failure to prosecute police officers after three deaths in custody. She was forced to reconsider her decisions. Her defenders say the job is a "no win" one: that she has made the CPS more efficient and consistent than when set up 10 years ago through such measures as national charging standards; that she has struggled with inadequate resources and that, with energy and zeal, she has put it the CPS—once a joke service—on the map. She is also a fighter and is fiercely defensive of the organisation. She has never accepted that convictions are falling; any fall, she says, is attributable to the lack of cases being charged by police. Whatever the truth of the debate over statistics, some say she had to leave a post where she has become inextricably identified with what the forthcoming Glidewell report will condemn as a deficient service.

My pledge to the people of Northern Ireland. No change in the status of Northern Ireland without the express consent of the people of Northern Ireland. Power to take decisions returned to a Northern Ireland Assembly, with accountable North-South cooperation. Fairness and equality guaranteed for all. Those who use or threaten violence excluded from the government of Northern Ireland. Prisoners kept in unless violence is given up for good. Whatever the referendum result, as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom I will continue to work for stability and prosperity for all the people of Northern Ireland. Tony Blair

Tony Blair's handwritten pledge to Unionists urging them to back the accord

Blair's pledge to Unionists

Continued from page 1. 19, suggesting undecided Unionists may be swinging behind the accord. An Irish Independent poll yesterday showed 44 per cent of David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party in favour, 14 per cent against and 41 per cent undecided. Mr Trimble, buoyed by the success of Tuesday night's rock concert, attacked Ian Paisley and Bob McCartney, leaders of the "no" campaign, saying they offered "no alternative, no vision, no hope and no achievement". President Clinton sent a message to the *New Letter*, the province's biggest Protestant newspaper, saying: "I urge you to make the choice for peace." Richard Branson, the billionaire tycoon, arrived in Belfast to lend his support. He promised flights full of American and European tourists, and to open more shops and cinemas in Northern Ireland, if the accord was implemented. Even Gerry Adams offered Mr Trimble discreet help by admitting that the Balcombe Street gang's triumphant appearance at Sinn Fein's conference was a mistake. Dr Paisley called Mr Blair's third Belfast visit a "desperate last throw of the dice". Decision day, page 7. Leading article, page 23.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British sea 'among dirtiest'

The water at British beaches is among the dirtiest in Europe and the quality is deteriorating, the EU Commission said yesterday. Beaches around Blackpool are the least healthy in which to take a dip, according to the Commission's annual report on 13,000 sea and inland bathing areas which are monitored for compliance with the EU's 1975 directive on water quality. Other bad spots are mainly along the Channel and in the southwest, although the area also boasts high-quality waters with the cleanest seaside water are Belgium, Greece, Spain and Ireland, Denmark and Italy although all but Belgium have some poor spots.

World Cup case

Organisers of the World Cup have been brought before a Paris court, accused of breaking EU laws by following a "discriminatory" system of ticket distribution. Some 32 Members of the European Parliament have filed suit in Paris urging the court to force the French organisers to distribute 750,000 tickets allocated to corporate sponsors.

Challenge fails

Denis Riordan, a lecturer in marine biology at the University of Technology, failed in his legal challenge to stop the Irish Republic voting tomorrow in the referendum which, he said, was unconstitutional and could not proceed. He also claimed that the Irish Government had no right to release prisoners. Yes campaign, page 7.

Hanging vote

A move that in effect blocks future Commons attempts to bring back the death penalty was carried by a 158 majority in a free vote of MPs last night. During the committee stage of the Human Rights Bill, MPs voted 294 to 136 to adopt two clauses of a European protocol that would place a constitutional bar on capital punishment.

Diana school

Mohamed Al Fayed will be the new owner of the Kent school where Diana, Princess of Wales was a pupil, after the Charity Commission yesterday accepted his £2.5 million bid for the site. The millionaire chairman of Harrods will now turn West Heath school in Sevenoaks, where Diana sat her O levels, into a school for traumatised children.

Weed's glory

A common garden weed has been awarded a prize at the Chelsea Flower Show in recognition of its contribution to the advancement of science in unravelling the genetic blueprint of other crops. Thale cress, or *Arabidopsis thaliana*, won a silver medal in the education and science section. It was exhibited by the John Innes Centre, Norwich.



Protection in court for rape victims

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIMES CORRESPONDENT

RAPE victims, children and the mentally ill are to be given extra protection in court under a charter for vulnerable witnesses being prepared by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. Rape victims will no longer face questioning about their sexual experiences. They will also be spared cross-examination by those accused who defend themselves. Counsel nominated by the court will step in on their behalf. Releasing details of the plans yesterday at the annual conference of the Police Federation in Bournemouth, Mr Straw acknowledged a change in the way that police deal with rape cases. Defendants needed protection but the victims of rape and other serious sexual crimes deserved protection too. The proposals for children and disabled witnesses are expected to be announced next month and could include greater use of live video links. Better protection will be offered to victims and witnesses from the early stages of a case up to the court appearance. The measures will be introduced in the autumn in a new criminal justice Bill.

Irvine wins over Labour MPs with tale of his roots

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

LORD IRVINE of Lairg yesterday won over Labour backbenchers with a passionate declaration of his ideological roots and a humble aside about the £9,000 wallpaper affair. Making the first appearance of a Lord Chancellor before Labour MPs, Lord Irvine sailed through what was widely expected to be a hostile grilling. Derry Irvine, one of the Prime Minister's closest allies, is also one of the most unpopular ministers, according to the latest poll. But yesterday, MPs eschewed questions about Pugin wallpaper, tables and chairs and devoted their questions to more erudite matters such as amendments to the Human Rights Bill and the Freedom of Information Bill. A well-prepared Lord Irvine charmed his way through 30 minutes of the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, although some of the more vocal MPs, such as Dennis Skinner, left before he spoke. Some said that the Lord Chancellor was nervous and determined to endear himself to his Old Labour critics. "He talked about the fact that he had been a member of the Labour Party since he was 17. That he was a great friend of John Smith's, and that he was determined to abolish hereditary peers," said one MP. "He wanted to be one of us." "He pitched it exactly right. He hit the right note," said another MP. "It was a good performance for someone who has never been to the PLP." Others were slightly less charitable. "Well, he performed better than when he appeared before us," said one Welsh MP. Lord Irvine dismissed Tory attacks on the refurbishment of his apartment as "sheer hypocrisy," making clear that they had originally supported the programme. "This is a Grade I listed building, and the proposals were the unanimous decisions of House of Lords Committees, which included Tory members," he said. He regretted that the wallpaper issue had deflected attention from more serious matters, and thanked MPs for their support over the issue.

Promise of help for child migrants

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday pledged to do more to relieve hardship and emotional distress among thousands of British subjects sent as small children to repopulate the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth with pure white stock. Giving evidence to a Commons Health Committee inquiry, Tom Luce, head of the Department of Health's Social Care group, accepted that the Government had an important role to play in helping former British child migrants find official documents that would help them to trace their families in Britain and, in some cases, lead them to discovering their true identity and date of birth. Mr Luce said, however, that the Government did not bear sole responsibility for the policy of child migration, under which more than 100,000 youngsters aged 3 to 17 were exported from children's homes to a supposedly better life between 1850 and 1967. The governments of Canada and Australia and other dominion territories that received the children, as well as organisations including Barnados and National Children's Homes which exported the children, also had a role to play. "We are ready to take future initiatives as soon as it becomes clear what the most sensible ones to make are," Mr Luce said. MPs were told that child migrants were frequently mistreated and exploited. Some were told that their families were dead, others were split from siblings who were sent to different countries. Mr Luce denied accusations from David Hinchcliffe, the Labour chair of the committee, that there had been a high-level cover-up of the child migration policy. He also denied a charge from John Austin, Labour MP for Erith and Thamesmead, that government departments had been guilty of "calculated deception" and "bureaucratic indifference" in responding to requests from former child migrants for information. Mr Luce said that tracing the origins and families of former child migrants was fraught with problems. "It is difficult for people to trace their birth records if they don't know where they came from." The committee heard evidence from two organisations representing the interests of former child migrants sent to Canada, where 11 per cent of the population are their descendants. David Lorente, founder of Home Children Canada and the son of a former child migrant, urged the committee to create a centralised task force bringing together all the government departments and childcare organisations responsible for child migration, so that information and records could be accessed centrally. The committee is due to hear evidence from the agencies responsible for exporting children abroad next month.

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Past waits to catch up with freed nurse

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LUCILLE McLAUCHLAN

UNKNOWN to her family, Lucille McLauchlan was sacked from her job at the Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee, for allegedly stealing £1,740 from a dying patient.

With a claim of gross misconduct hanging over her nursing career in Britain, she seized on the chance of a fresh start at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran. But after just a few months in her new job, she was charged with being an accessory to the murder of colleague Yvonne Gilford.

At first, her family, parents Stan and Ann McLauchlan, her brother John and fiancé Grant Ferrie were united in all their efforts on her behalf. Two lawyers, Peter Watson from Glasgow and Rodger Pannone from Manchester, moved by the family's plight, offered their expertise for free, as did the Glasgow public relations company Media House. For 1½ years, they campaigned tirelessly for McLauchlan's release.

But cracks in their relationship began to appear around November last year when Mr Ferrie, 30, a Dundee tyre-fitter, flew to Dammam Prison to marry McLauchlan. Her brother John attended the 20-minute courthouse ceremony. But her parents, Mr McLauchlan, 53, a former union official in the Dundee

shipyards, and Mrs McLauchlan, 50, a cleaner, did not. When asked at the time for their reaction to their daughter's impending marriage, they confessed, perhaps disingenuously: "It's news to us."

On his return from his wedding, Mr Ferrie entered into negotiations with several newspapers for the story of his romance with McLauchlan and the prison wedding snaps. Yesterday it emerged that the publicist Max Clifford was acting as an agent for the Lucille McLauchlan story and a six-figure deal with *The Mirror* newspaper had been reached. The entire family are believed to be a secret location awaiting McLauchlan's return. And the two renowned lawyers, who worked without accepting any payment, appeared to be surplus to requirements.

Although the McLauchlans are well-liked by their neighbours, there were indications that their daughter could expect a mixed reception on her return home. The lucrative deal struck with *The Mirror* has divided opinion.

John Thornton, 71, said: "I am definitely not celebrating and I think a lot of people in

Dundee will feel the same way. Nobody has thought of the poor lassie who was murdered. It's her I feel for."

A friend, Karen Rosso, 30, admitted some people believed there was "no smoke without fire". But Freda Garty, a former colleague, who launched at petition at the hospital pleading for her release, said: "I am absolutely delighted. I have always said Lucille was innocent."

A complaint was first made about Ms McLauchlan in March 1996 while she was working in the Aids ward of the Kings Cross Hospital. It was alleged that she took £1,740 from a dying patient using a stolen credit card. She was subsequently sacked in May for gross misconduct, and a report was sent by Tayside Police to the Dundee procurator fiscal.

Shortly afterwards, she left the country for a new life in Saudi Arabia, telling her family it was a good career move and that the higher wages at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran would help her save for her wedding. She had become engaged that March.

The Dundee procurator fiscal's office had no option but to put court action on hold. When confronted by the allegations in Christmas 1996 at the time of her arrest in Saudi, her parents and brother, an oil rig worker in Indonesia, confessed ignorance. After 17 months in Dammam Central Prison, McLauchlan will hardly have time to adjust to her new freedom, before she is ordered to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court on June 18.

Nigel Orr, Dundee's principal procurator fiscal deputy, confirmed that a decision will be taken on whether to prosecute her on an outstanding theft charge from 1996. "I would imagine that a decision would be taken fairly quickly," he said. "Of course, these are unusual circumstances and for that reason we would not wish to rush into it."



Sandra Ashbee, Parry's sister, leaving her Hampshire home yesterday

Remnant of death-haunted family relinquishes fight

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

DEBORAH PARRY

THE family of Deborah Parry spent yesterday with two reporters and a photographer from *The Express*. Her sister, Sandra, and brother-in-law, Jonathan Ashbee, her closest relatives after a series of family tragedies, have been at the centre of a campaign to have her released, flying out to visit her in Saudi and protesting her innocence.

They live in a £200,000 detached house in Parry's home town of Alton, Hampshire. It was the family tragedies that led Parry, 40, to start a new life in Saudi Arabia in 1993, convinced that her life in Britain was cursed. In 1979,

when she was 21, her 16-year-old brother, Keith, died in a motorcycle accident, days after leaving school. Within weeks, her mother, Eunice, drowned on a boating trip to Norfolk, taken to recuperate from the stress of her son's death.

Parry had just started nursing training and carried on her work in Oxford and Worcester. In 1987, her father, John, a flight engineer, died from a heart attack and her brother-in-law suffered a fatal brain haemorrhage. After treatment by bereavement

counsellors, she moved to Saudi and worked at the King Fahd Centre, where she was entrusted with the long-term care of a member of the Saudi royal family.

Two years later, she returned home as a staff nurse and helped to establish a pioneering post-operative care unit at Kingston Hospital in southwest London. She returned to the King Fahd complex in September 1996.

When Parry returns to Britain, amid fears for her health after coping with the spartan jail conditions less well than McLauchlan, she is expected to move in with her sister, Mr Ashbee, a banking executive, and their four children.



Grant Ferrie with Lucille McLauchlan: story sold

A closed trial at which the women were kept in dark

BY RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

THE EVIDENCE REVIEWED

TWO hand-written confessions with each page marked with a thumbprint convicted Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan of the murder of Yvonne Gilford.

Although their release has been greeted with joy by their families, the women's convictions have not been quashed. Their sentences have been commuted to the period they have already served, and their release ordered.

So, in spite of controversy that the confessions were made after they were threatened with rape, they remain guilty over the murder. Parry and McLauchlan will doubtless claim that they are innocent. But is there any doubt who killed Yvonne Gilford?

Confessions: Parry and McLauchlan made their confessions during their interrogation after the discovery of Yvonne Gilford's body in block 44 of the King Fahd medical centre at Dhahran on December 11, 1996.

According to the confessions a violent argument erupted between Yvonne Gilford and Parry over the future of their lesbian relationship. Parry picked up a kettle and threw it at Gilford, who fell to the ground. Parry plunged a knife with a five-inch blade into her alleged lover and McLauchlan smothered her with a cushion.

Eight days later they were arrested in the Al Shola shopping mall after police were told the pair had been the last to see Gilford alive. The written confessions are fluent but there are asterisks and amendments in the margins suggesting that both women were made to elaborate on them.

They contain striking similarities. McLauchlan's statement starts by admitting that an earlier "confession" was "incorrect and incomplete". She speaks of a lesbian relations between Ms Gilford, 55, and Parry.

"Debbie Parry went into Yvonne's kitchen and picked up the kettle which was sitting on the stove and threw it at

forehead. Yvonne fell and seemed dazed. I slapped her twice on the face to see if she was conscious which she appeared to be at the time."

The statement added: "She (Parry) unplugged the telephone, went into the kitchen and took a bread knife out of Yvonne's drawer. She came towards Yvonne and stabbed her under the breast... Debbie sat on top of her and I saw her stab Yvonne in the neck and upper back."

"I held the pillow over Yvonne's face until she stopped making a noise. I must add I held the cushion over Yvonne's face until she was suffocated."

In her statement McLauchlan also admitted taking Ms Gilford's wallet and her bank card and memorised the pin number 4663 which was also in the wallet. She also gave a graphic description of the knife and she used Ms Gilford's bank card to withdraw cash.

In her statement Parry admits that she was having a lesbian affair with Ms Gilford and was upset when it ended and that all three had talked

until the argument went "out of control".

"Yvonne Gilford became aggressive and hit Lucille in the face. I then stood up and took a kettle from the stove and threw it, it broke, as it had hit Yvonne on the head, she was dazed but very angry."

The statement added: "I took a bread knife from the kitchen drawer. It had a serrated edge and stabbed Yvonne... to her chest, neck and back... The statement goes on: "In the apartment the knife was washed and returned to the drawer, it was dried on a white towel from the bathroom by one of us."

In all they both wrote four confessions but only one from each, written on December 23 1996, was used in evidence. They were written without access to legal representation or British consular staff.

Granted a meeting with consular staff at the end of December the women alleged they had been forced to sign the confessions and were threatened with rape, touched sexually by their interrogators and were deprived of food,

water and sleep. Both women retracted their confessions.

They were never told what they were accused of as, under Saudi law, the charges are revealed only at the end, along with the verdict and sentence.

Motive: The end of the lesbian affair was put forward as one possible motive, but no evidence was ever produced in public.

A second possible motive was that Ms Gilford was a money lender who intimidated those who owed her money. Reports indicated that Ms Gilford abused her position as the senior nurse to withhold salary cheques from her staff, forcing them to borrow money from her at exorbitant rates.

Defence lawyers have suggested that hospital security guards operated their own money lending operation and had warned Ms Gilford not to jeopardise their sideline. Five guards were arrested questioned and freed. All were sacked.

Evidence: A main plank of the prosecution case was that the women had used the stolen credit card. Reports suggested that at least one withdrawal had been captured on video, but the film was never produced.

But the reports did say that on at least one occasion the person using a hole in the wall machine had requested English language instructions.

McLauchlan was later to claim that her handbag was taken from her on her arrest and it was returned with Ms Gilford's bank card in it. Parry is alleged to have transferred 2,000 Saudi riyals (£354) to her account in Alton, Hampshire.

A week after the killing, McLauchlan withdrew £800 from the account.

Scientific evidence: No evidence was ever produced publicly to prove that either of the women were in Ms Gilford's room on the night she died.

At their trial, the women spoke only to retract their confessions and deny murder. But despite their families' euphoria, Parry returns home a convicted murderer and McLauchlan an accessory to murder.



Yvonne Gilford: ran money-lending scheme for nurses

Ambassador denies that Blair held key to freedom

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND GRAHAM PATERSON

SAUDI ARABIA did not release the nurses because of any outside pressure or to safeguard trade with Britain, the Saudi Ambassador in Britain insisted yesterday.

Ghazi al-Gosaibi said that Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan had had their sentences commuted on humanitarian grounds. He said King Fahd had taken the action "as an act of mercy" in response to the petition presented by the two women and because the next of kin of the victim had waived his right to retribution.

Dr al-Gosaibi said that the release was not a response to Tony Blair's visit to Saudi Arabia last month. The petition had already been handed to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister had behaved with delicacy and sensitivity, the ambassador said. "He did not demand, plead or urge the case of the nurses, and just asked the status of their cases."

Dr al-Gosaibi was convinced of the fairness of the trial, and denounced the "trial by media" in Britain. He said it was a proper trial, in a proper court. The judges were pious and experienced. "It is incredible that they would convict if they were not 100 per cent convinced that the women were guilty."

The Ambassador, who has held lengthy talks with British officials about the case for the past two years, expressed bitterness that every such incident in Saudi Arabia immediately raised questions in Britain about trade and political links. "These cases come and go, but relations between our countries rest on a solid basis." He noted, wryly, that some newspapers seemed almost disappointed that the women were not executed.

However, a European diplomat in Riyadh said last week: "This has bogged down the British Embassy for the last two years. They are terrified of anything that could hit the £20 billion defence deal and they are terrified of the tab-

loid back home." Dr al-Gosaibi said there was no provision to transfer the women to prison in Britain because the two countries had no such arrangement. He did not think any such provision should now be made: there were 30,000 Britons living in Saudi Arabia, and only about two or three criminal cases came to court each year.

Saudi Arabia was not afraid of a backlash from the allegations made by the nurses when they arrived in Britain. "There is no risk to Saudi-British trade and no risk to our relations."

However, a Saudi businessman with close links to Britain explained that his country was intensely proud of its achievements, and highly sensitive to any criticism that would tarnish its image as a theocratic state that deserved its custodianship of Mecca. "I fear the

THE SAUDI REACTION

tabloid newspapers will use [the nurses' release] as another opportunity to attack the Kingdom," he said.

The Ambassador said that the women had not been favourably treated because they were white and English. Black English citizens would have been treated the same way: so would black Ethiopians. "They were put in the same prison as anyone else."

He would not comment on whether 17 months was sufficient punishment for murder or whether the women should be paid for their story. This was not a matter for Saudi Arabia or its Ambassador, he said, noting that there was a "lively debate" in Britain on the issue of criminals being paid for their stories. He said the argument over payment of the "blood-money" to the victim's brother in Australia did not concern Saudi Arabia. "It is none of my business nor that of a Saudi court. I have no idea what he keeps and what he gives to charity."



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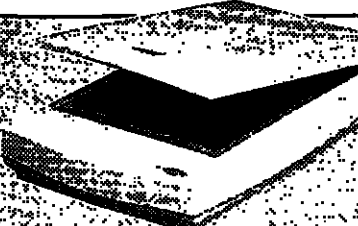


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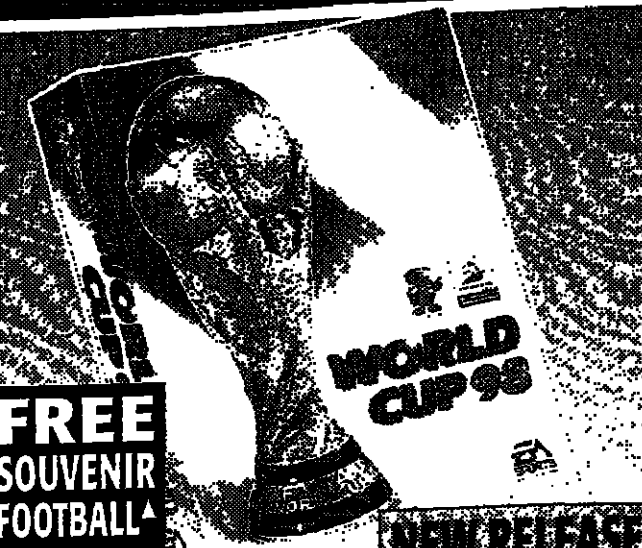
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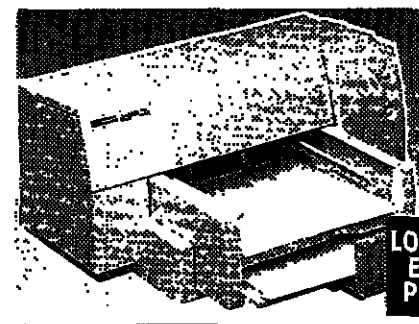


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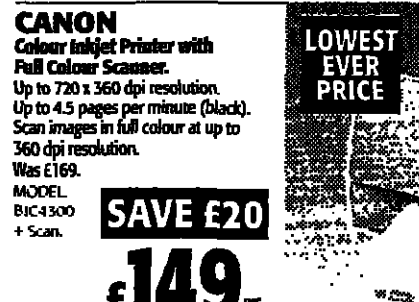
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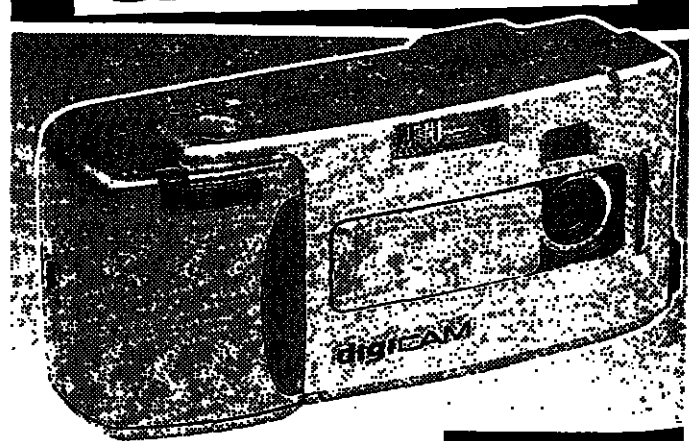
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Cheese tradition rolls to an end

The downhill race after Double Gloucesters is not safe, say police.
Damian Whitworth reports

THEY have been perfecting the art of spinning cheeses at great speed down the side of Cooper's Hill for a few years now. According to some in the Cotswolds, it was the Romans who first set the Double Gloucesters rolling at Witcombe, near Gloucester.

But this year the Whitsun tradition will not happen. The authorities say it is just too dangerous.

The police and health and safety inspectors have a point. Last year 35 people were injured, seven of them spectators hit by runners who lost control while chasing the cheeses down the incline.

But the racers themselves assert their rights to pursue any cheese they wish and are furious at the intervention of the "nanny state".

As many as 25 to 30 people would normally take part in each race, hurrying after wheel-shaped 7lb Double Gloucesters. The cheeses are sent bounding down the one in two gradient. Although catching the cheese is impossible, the winner is the person who first reaches the foot of the hill.

The organisers say they have come under such pressure from the police and health and safety authorities over the dangers and because of fears of litigation from injured parties, that they have had no choice but to cancel the event.

"It's terribly sad," said Tony Peasley, who has been a big



The cheese-rolling race gets under way at Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire. Last year 35 people were injured

cheese, so to speak, in the races for some 43 years. "Admittedly, people get injured every year — there are sprains and dislocations and the occasional broken arm or leg. But no one has ever been killed or suffered any lasting injury or disability as a result of racing down the hill.

"It's just a robust country pursuit which is a lot of fun. After last year's races I had calls from magazines and TV stations in Canada, Germany, America and Japan — the interest was intense.

"It's taken place for hundreds of years without stopping, even in the war years when a wooden cheese was used because of rationing. But now it seems we live in a nanny state society where people aren't allowed to do anything risky or have fun, and the authorities intervene to protect people from themselves."

He said the 15-member Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling Committee had decided that demands on safety and insurance from the police and the landowners, Gloucestershire County Council, were too difficult to meet for this year's event. But the committee hopes that with enough precautions the races will be revived next year.

The problems for the organisers began when Gloucestershire police asked for a meeting with the committee after the carnage of last

year's races. "The police came up here and looked at the venue and pointed out the potential dangers, which we were already fully aware of," said Mr Peasley, a retired fuel control engineer. "We felt that runners were taking the risks of their own choice but the police said this might not stand up in court if there was litigation.

"Then we had a letter from the county council land agent asking for assurances about public safety. They particularly asked us to give them an assurance that the Health and Safety Executive had been involved in the planning of the event — which, of course, they haven't. How could they ever be happy about an event like this?"

Mr Peasley said the last straw for the organisers this year was when they could not get the Gloucestershire Cave

Rescue Service to help. Local cavers have attended for the last few years, climbing the hill to rescue people who were injured on the way down.

Superintendent Phil Sullivan, of Cheltenham police, said: "We can't and don't want to stop it but we want it properly organised so the emergency services aren't overburdened."

Over the past few years the popularity of the event has

grown to such an extent that several thousand people have lined the hillsides to watch the four downhill races. But there has been criticism that many of the racers were drunk and hurled themselves down the hill without a thought for their own safety.

Some historians say the cheese-rolling dates from the time when the Phoenicians chased withy hoops down the hill as a fertility rite.

Golfer may be banned for his £189,000 drive

BY MATT DICKINSON
AN AMATEUR golfer is facing a ten-year ban from competitions after winning a £189,000 Lamborghini for a hole in one.

Derek Lawrenson won the car as he played at a tournament while partnered by the Liverpool and England footballers Paul Ince and Steve McManaman in a corporate golf day.

His three-iron shot yesterday at the Mill Ride Golf Club in Ascot flew 198 yards from the 15th tee and dropped into the hole. The feat won him one of the two black and silver, 208 mph Lamborghini Diablos — top speed 208 miles per hour and 0-60 in 3.8 seconds — positioned next to the hole as an incentive. "Suddenly Ince and McManaman were mobbing me and rolling all over me like I had just scored the winning goal at Wembley," said Lawrenson, who plays off a handicap of eight.

His win, however, attracted the attention of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the arbiters of the rules of golf and staunch defenders of the line between amateur status and professionalism.

The R and A's rules stipulate that the maximum prize for a hole in one at any non-professional event should be £200. In collecting the keys to the car.

Lawrenson, 37, golf correspondent for *The Sunday Telegraph*, would be exceeding the limit.

"The rules are very clear and designed to keep golf a largely self-regulating game on a handicap system," Grant Moir, assistant secretary in the rules department of the R and A, said. "If there is the introduction of large prizes, it could lead players into temptation. The enjoyment of the game is that it is for pleasure and not profit.

"In taking the car, a player would not be a professional but he would become a non-amateur. He would not be allowed to hold an official handicap as such. He could not play in open amateur events or represent his club against other clubs. He can reapply but the normal period is ten years."

For Lawrenson, the loss of amateur status appeared to be something he could learn to live with last night, despite the thought of not representing his Midlands club, Moor Hall, for the next ten years.

"The only thing I have really had to consider is whether to take the car or strike some agreement over a cash equivalent," he said.

Golfing temptation, page 49

Pilot cleared of causing death crash

THE father of a boy who died in a helicopter crash last night pledged to pursue a private prosecution after the pilot was acquitted of negligence (Gillian Harris writes).

Captain Robert Hobson, 56, from Penicuik near Edinburgh, walked free after Sheriff James Scott ruled that there was insufficient evidence for the trial to continue. The decision infuriated the parents of Garry Mulley, nine, who was killed last July during a pleasure flight for handicapped children.

Garry's father, Thomas Simpson, said the ruling at Forfar Sheriff Court was " rubbish". He would be appealing "as soon as possible".

The crash happened on July 13 at an event organised by Noel Edmond's charity, Airborne, at Glamis Castle in Angus. Garry and four other children were on board when the Bell Jet Ranger aircraft, owned by Kwik-Fit, became entangled in wire fencing.

Father condemns killers' sentences

BY GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A FATHER whose son was beaten to death by three Scottish teenagers because of his English accent condemned the four-year jail sentences handed down to his killers yesterday.

Malcolm Ayton, whose son Mark, 19, was killed in a drunken brawl near his home in the affluent Edinburgh suburb of Balerno, said that Ross Gravestock, 16, and Iain Wheldon and Graham Purves, both 17, should have been jailed for at least ten years.

"When someone gets killed with a kicking to the head then gets a few years for it, that is not appropriate punishment in my view," Mr Ayton, a tax inspector, said after sentencing at the High Court in Edinburgh.

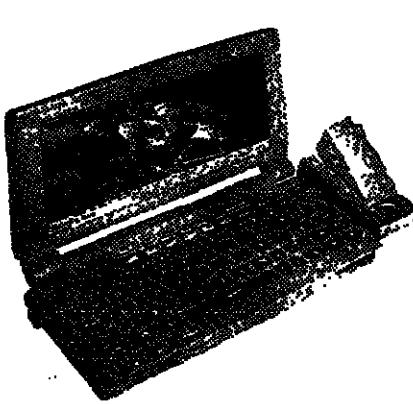
At the week-long trial in Glasgow, which ended two weeks ago, Gravestock, Wheldon and Purves changed their plea from not guilty to murder to guilty to the lesser charge of culpable homicide. Mr Ayton, 48, wrote to the judge, Lord Eassie, criticising plea bargaining and urging him to treat the teenagers as murderers.

Passing sentence yesterday, Lord Eassie said that although the youths' conduct had been deplorable, the degree of violence was "relatively minor".

Mark Ayton, who was brought up in the Midlands before moving to Balerno six years ago, was killed last November. His killers were pupils at a rival school who followed Mark and his brother Paul home from a pub, shouting taunts about his English accent.

When they attacked, they used such force that the imprint of their shoes could be seen on Mark's forehead. His body was found by Paul, who had become separated from him during the fight.

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THIS SATURDAY IN THE TIMES MAGAZINE



BRUCE WEBER



talks tough about tennis

FREE WITH THE SATURDAY TIMES

Mugger jailed for death of charity worker

By RICHARD DUCE

THE last words of a charity worker stabbed through the heart by muggers were, "Tell my girlfriend I love her and would have married her", the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Marc Lane-Martin, a Labour Party activist who was photographed with Tony Blair during the election campaign, had devoted his free time to working with the unemployed and underprivileged when he was confronted by Delroy Snuggs and another mugger, who remains at large.

He was taken to Hammer-smith Hospital in West London, where it was realised that there was a huge puncture wound in his heart.

Dorian Lovell-Pank, QC, for the prosecution, said: "Once he realised his condition was going downhill, he told one of the nurses to tell his girlfriend that he loved her and he would have married her."

Snuggs, 19, who is unem-

ployed, from Acton, West London, had denied murder but yesterday admitted manslaughter and robbery. He was sentenced to 12 years' youth custody by Judge Michael Coombe.

Mr Lane-Martin, 30, a marketing consultant with the Communication Workers' Union, had been walking to his West London home from a meeting at a community centre when he was attacked by the two youths last July. The court was told that he was carrying a satchel that the muggers thought might contain a laptop computer. After he was stabbed and the bag ripped from his shoulder, Mr Lane-Martin staggered into the path of a motorist, who raised the alarm.

Mr Lovell-Pank said police later recovered the stolen bag, on which there were traces of Snuggs's fingerprints. Police also traced telephone calls

from his home to police and to the hospital.

Michael Massie, representing Snuggs, said he was frightened of naming his fellow attacker for fear of reprisals against his family. His mother, a nurse, had already been attacked and had moved.

Mr Massie said that, although Snuggs knew that the other man was carrying a knife, he had not known he was going to use it.

Mr Lane-Martin's mother, Weesha, said last night: "He was such a peaceful man. His death has left a terrible gap."

Mr Lane-Martin worked with the unemployed at a centre in West London and was a school governor. Just before the election he took a party of children from Colville Primary School in West London to meet Mr Blair. He had become interested in Labour before studying economics at Kingston University.



Marc Lane-Martin was stabbed through the heart

Trainee's roasting for town hall over coffee

By ROBIN YOUNG

RHIANNON DUFFY was delighted to be chosen for a business administration course with her local council under the Youth Training Scheme. But she walked out after 12 weeks in which she reckoned she had made 3,360 cups of coffee.

When Miss Duffy, 18, complained that she was required to brew 56 cups of coffee a day, her boss told her: "It's all part of your job."

Yesterday Miss Duffy, disappointed that her role as a council office receptionist turned out to be a continuous round of coffee distribution to senior staff at Labour-controlled Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, said: "If Tony Blair is serious about creating good jobs for young people, then he should look first at how his own Labour councils run things."

A council spokeswoman said: "We take training of our young people very seriously. The staff in the office insist the most she ever made the coffee was twice in one day."

West's cousin gets four years for sex attacks

By A CORRESPONDENT

A COUSIN of the killer Frederick West was jailed for four years yesterday after being found guilty of sex attacks on three teenage girls.

William John Hill, 45, was convicted of one rape and three indecent assaults that took place when the girls separately visited his former home in Much Marcle, Herefordshire, between 1976 and 1984. None of the girls told of the sex attacks for at least 13 years. His arrest arose from the investigation into Rosemary and Frederick West at Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Hill, now of Putley, Herefordshire, had sex with one girl in an upstairs bedroom every morning during a week's visit, as his elderly stepmother prepared his breakfast downstairs. His wife Ruth, a mother-of-three, fought back tears in the public gallery at Birmingham Crown Court as her husband was taken down.

Judge Peter Crawford, QC, the Recorder of Birmingham, told him: "You took advantage of your age and their youth and inexperience and, in the case of one victim, you exercised your power over her by forcing sexual intercourse upon her first the first

time in her life. Following these incidents, you appear to have lived a blameless life.

"You are married and you have a young family. It is perfectly plain that any sentence I impose will affect not only you, but your family.

"They are being punished for what you did all those years ago. In spite of your good character and in spite of the long period of time that has elapsed, you must immediately go to prison for a substantial time.

"If it had not been for the long lapse of time, you would have gone to prison for six or seven years."



Hill: arrest arose from the West investigation

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'Yes' vote offers small comfort in Poyntzpass

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ANN TRAINOR will be backing the peace accord in tomorrow's referendum. So will Cecil Allen. She is Roman Catholic, he Protestant. Both have paid a dreadful price for Ulster's hatred. On March 3 their sons, best friends, were killed by gunmen in the village of Poyntzpass, and they are praying that the Province's two communities will vote to end their ancient quarrel so that other families will be spared their agony.



Damian Trainor, left, and Philip Allen. Ann Trainor rarely leaves her home except to tend the grave of her son. "Damian, it's Mummy," she whispered after he had been shot, but it was too late for a reply

They hope that Poyntzpass will be the last of the atrocities that have punctuated the last 20 years of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. And in their still-raw grief, they draw some small comfort from believing that the terrorists who came by night to try to wreck the peace process created such revulsion that they actually spurred on the politicians.

and the villagers exchange greetings as they pass. But there was not one customer in the tiny wood-panelled Railway Bar at lunchtime yesterday. This was where the two men were drinking orange juice and discussing Mr Allen's wedding when the two masked gunmen burst in, ordered the seven customers to lie down and opened fire.

the door through which she crawled to safety. In the neat Catholic and Presbyterian churchyards, a stone's throw from each other, the two graves await headstones. And in Mr Trainor's large brown house, across the road from the family garage, the curtains are closed and his mother hides herself away.

the village, no longer sees the Allen family and no longer goes into the nearby town of Banbridge because that is where the killers, members of the Loyalist Volunteer Force, came from. "They were sick and evil," she says.

She recalls how she rushed to the bar that night and found him lying on the floor. She touched his hand and it was cold. She said, "Damian, it's Mummy", but he was already beyond replying and died on the way to hospital. There she touched his forehead and closed his eyes. "Thank God they didn't hit him in the face," she says.

alternative. "I hope it will keep the evil and violence away and let people of different religions live in peace. I pray to God it's passed to help us all."

time goes on but it gets worse." He cannot sleep. His health has deteriorated. Friends and acquaintances leave him alone because they do not know what to say.

has to be done. You just can't go on and on and on. You've got to live with your neighbours," he says.



Mo Mowlam and Richard Branson promoting the Yes vote in Belfast yesterday

Branson lures voters with cash pledge

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON and Mo Mowlam hugged and kissed their way along the streets of Belfast yesterday, hoping that a last-minute love-in might persuade doubting voters to say Yes in tomorrow's referendum.

not trying to bribe people, it is just that these are the facts. You get one chance on Friday and for God's sake vote Yes for the safety of your country and the future of your children."

under his arm. The 43-year-old man said that despite his Oxford education he had spent the past ten years washing dishes while his Protestant colleagues got senior posts at Queen's University. "Northern Ireland is rotten to the core with discrimination," he shouted at Dr Mowlam over the oranges and apples at the street market.

er Education that she relieved stress by hitting her guards in the stomach as they stood to attention. "There is no doubt that by the end of an 18-hour session you get tired and grumpy. I did not sing and I did not drink... I used to punch the policemen in the stomach to see how good their stomach muscles were. That is the best fun I had in the talks," she said.

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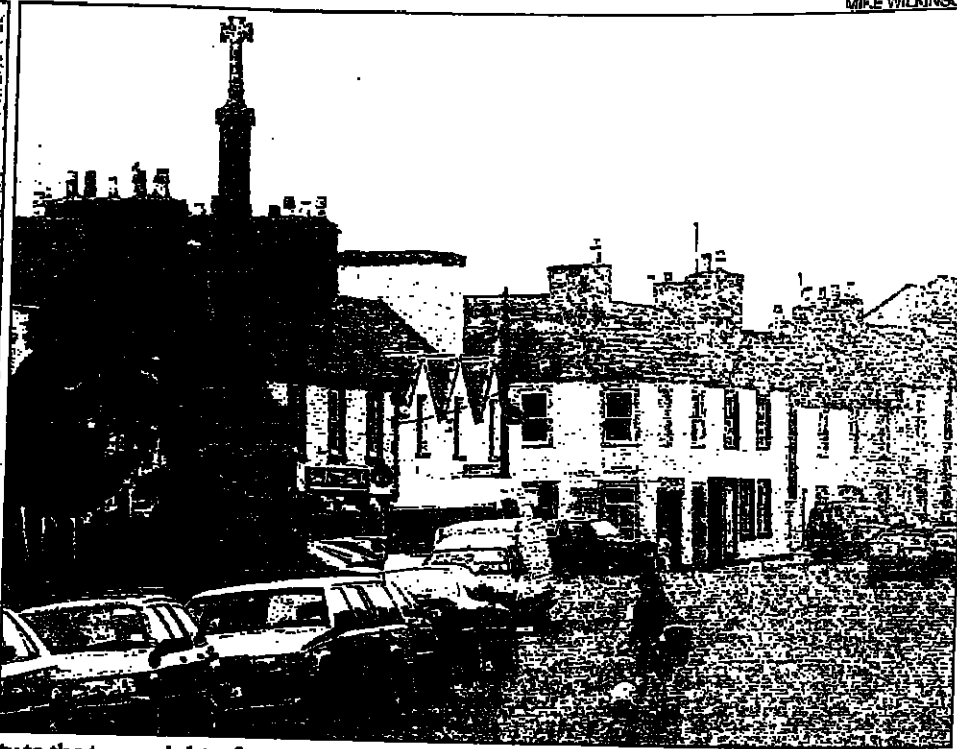
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Title role: one of Wigtown's 16 bookshops that are expected to bring 50,000 extra visitors a year and a new prosperity to the town, right, after unemployment had soared to double the national average



Stalker is jailed for seven-year harassment

By A CORRESPONDENT

AN OBSESSED man who wrote more than 100 "sinister and distressing" letters over seven years to a student who turned down his request for a date was jailed yesterday.

In one of them, Gary Watson told Emma Rawling, whom he met while she was working part-time in a bar before going to university: "I am the chosen one. We have to get together and have a golden child."

Miss Rawling, now 28 and a British Steel manager, handed ten letters to police in 1992 and Watson was warned not to contact her again. Five years later, he hand-delivered a 155-page letter that had taken him more than three months to write. Teesside magistrates were told.

In September, Watson, 28, stalked her at a nightclub. Nikki Nelson, for the prosecution, said: "He asked her if she had read 'The Letter' and it made Miss Rawling even more terrified that he had made physical contact." A month later Watson hounded her at another nightclub and punched two girlfriends trying to protect her.

Watson, of Thornaby-on-Tees, was given 12 weeks' jail for harassing Miss Rawling and another ten weeks for the assaults. He admitted the offences and was banned from contacting her.

Bookshops open new chapter for town

Gillian Harris plots a project on the Scottish border to create a rival for Hay-on-Wye

AS SOME of the world's leading writers descend on Hay-on-Wye this week for its eleventh annual literary festival, another little town off the beaten track is seeking similar recognition.

The inauguration of Wigton, in Dumfries and Galloway, as Scotland's first "book town" may have provided Hay-on-Wye with its first serious British competitor.

For 37 years, the small market town on the Welsh border, which boasts 26 bookshops, has enjoyed a monopoly of attracting bookworms eager to browse through an estimated two million tomes or to take part in the celebrity-studded junket on the banks of the River Wye that begins on Friday.

Organisers in Wigton have, for the time being, ruled out a major literary festival with all the authorial self-promotion that entails. But Stephen Norris, their spokesman and the town butcher, emphasises Wigton's literary heritage. Gavin Maxwell, who wrote *Ring of Bright*

Water, came from the area; Robert Burns lived and worked near by; Sir Walter Scott composed his *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border* at his home in the undulating countryside. And Wigton has no fewer than 16 bookshops.

Hay-on-Wye offers readers vast quantities of old library stock. Wigton hopes to provide a greater collection of specialist literature. Book dealers are moving into the town. Robin Richmond, who has come from Watford, is one of the world's largest suppliers of crime fiction. The Old Bank Bookshop sells texts on natural history and antique furniture.

Wigton has secured £400,000 in funding for the next three years. Formerly derelict buildings round the town square are freshly painted to house the bookshops that have opened in recent months.

A year ago, the 1,000-strong town was fighting for survival. A series of job losses at creameries and the closure of a distillery caused unemployment to soar to 17 per cent, twice the national average. The town became dependent on a trickle of tourists.

According to Roy Surplice, chairman of the book town committee, Wigton's economic decline was one of the main reasons that the Scottish Tourist Board and Scottish Enterprise chose it over five rivals for the project. "They were looking for somewhere with plenty of empty property that could be used for book-related businesses. We fitted the bill. But more than that, it

was something we really needed."

Wigton's victory was greeted with delight, even by those who professed not to care about books. "It was as if the town had been given a self-confidence boost," Mr Surplice said.

There used to be just one one bookshop in Wigton. Alastair Reid, a New York-based poet and essayist who was born in the neighbouring

village of Whithorn, is amazed by the change. "When I was growing up, I don't recall seeing a book in Wigton, let alone a bookshop," he said. Mr Reid, 71, is one of the literary guests who returned to Wigton last week to celebrate the launch of the book town project.

With an estimated 50,000 extra visitors a year expected, hotel owners in Wigton look certain to have a good time.

The County Hotel, which has been "semi-closed" for some time, has re-opened for the book town celebrations. The Old Wigton House Hotel, which stopped taking overnight guests last year, will once again offer accommodation in the summer.

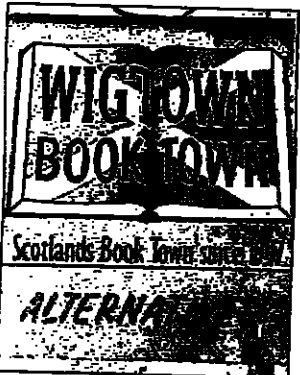
"There are real economic benefits to the region from Wigton's designation as Scotland's book town," said Colin Bell, development execu-

tive at Dumfries and Galloway Enterprise. "Existing tourists and new visitors will spend more and stay longer in the area." Mr Norris agrees. "You'll always get those who think books could never have any economic impact on the town, but most people are supportive," he said.

Yesterday Peter Florence, the Hay festival's director, welcomed the arrival of Britain's second book town. "I

think it is fantastic," he said. "I have only been to Wigton once, but it seems to me that it is just as inaccessible and off the beaten track as Hay, so it should benefit from this endeavour. The second-hand book economy is very important and it will be interesting to see whether or not it will work in Wigton." Hay-on-Wye used to have two hotels and four pubs. Now it has 120 hotels to cope with the 25,000 festival visitors.

Books, pages 40-41



The literary boast does not extend to apostrophes

Escaper comes home to roost

By PAUL WILKINSON

DIANA the homing pigeon has done it again. Only months after escaping and setting a record for travelling nearly 1,500 miles from Spain back to its old loft, it has twice got free and returned home again.

This time it did not have to travel so far to reach its former home in Skipton, North Yorkshire. The first occasion was from Filey, 75 miles away; the second just across town.

Now the bird's former owner, Dino Reardon, a champion breeder, has accepted defeat, renamed it "Boomerang", and allowed the pigeon to stay home. Mr Reardon, 66, who parted with his birds last autumn after retiring from the pigeon fancying business, said: "She keeps coming

home because she loves me and she loves her loft. But I don't have the loft any more, so she's living in a cardboard box."

Boomerang's father, Blucy, was a world champion that three years ago was stolen for breeding. Its kidnappers clipped its wings, but Blucy escaped and walked 60 miles home.

Mr Reardon said: "I originally gave her to this Spanish pigeon breeder who came to collect her after hearing about Blucy. But she escaped and flew all the way back."

"Then I gave her to a man in Filey. She wouldn't settle so I visited every day and she perked up." But Mr Reardon stopped visiting after five months and she came looking for him.

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Cuts must not affect schooling, lords rule

By MARK HENDERSON

A TEENAGER suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, known as ME, won a landmark legal victory in the House of Lords yesterday against a council's decision to cut her home tuition.

Five law lords ruled unanimously that East Sussex County Council had been wrong to reduce Beth Tandy's home tuition from five to three hours a week after cuts in its education budget. The council was not entitled to consider expense when fulfilling its statutory duty to provide a "suitable education" for Miss Tandy, 16, because her needs had not changed, the law lords decided.

More than 100,000 children with special educational needs could benefit from the ruling, which means that councils will not be able to take the resources available into account when meeting their statutory duties on education. Tuition levels must now be assessed purely on grounds of educational need.

Miss Tandy, from Lewes, is now sitting GCSEs in English literature, English language and mathematics. She has suffered from myalgic encephalomyelitis since she was seven and stopped attending school in February 1992. She received five hours a week of home tuition until September 1996, when the council cut its

A CONTROVERSIAL CONDITION

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), known officially as chronic fatigue syndrome, is one of the most controversial of medical conditions. Doctors are divided over whether the debilitating illness is a genuine physical condition or all in the mind. Whatever lies behind the condition, there is no doubt that it can cause great suffering, including long periods of weakness and lethargy which, in extreme cases, can leave sufferers bedridden. They also complain of headaches, aching muscles, sleep disturbance and mood swings. Exercise appears to make the symptoms worse — but excessive rest is no help either.

Many people with the condition become depressed but whether depression is a clinical symptom of the illness or simply a natural reaction to it is not always clear. According to the Royal Colleges, between 1 and 2.5 per cent of the population suffers from ME. The term was originally used in 1955 to describe an outbreak of unexplained illness affecting staff at the Royal Free Hospital in North London. The nickname "Yuppie Flu" was coined in the 1980s.

home tuition budget from £100,000 to £25,000, and announced that Miss Tandy would then get just three hours teaching a week.

Miss Tandy and her parents successfully challenged the cut in the Divisional Court last April, but the council had the ruling overturned in the Court of Appeal on a 2 to 1 majority.

The House of Lords yesterday reinstated the Divisional Court's judgment, by Mr Justice Keene, that the council had taken into account the "irrelevant consideration" of expense, that the cut was made for the "improper purpose" of saving money, and

that it was "irrational" to expect Miss Tandy to pass GCSEs with the reduced teaching.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "To permit a local authority to avoid performing a statutory duty on the ground that it prefers to spend the money in other ways, is to downgrade a statutory duty to a discretionary power."

Miss Tandy's mother, Hilary, said they were delighted with the ruling. "It has made our fight worthwhile," she said. "Children with ME and other illnesses can use this judgment to get the education they need. They

are not ill through any fault of their own. They deserve a good level of education."

Miss Tandy said yesterday: "ME means that I get very fatigued and suffer from mental and physical exhaustion. There is no way I would have been able to pass my exams if I'd only had three hours a week with my tutors. There is so much course work to be done and books to read, I need as much time as possible talking it through with my tutor."

William Garnett, the family's solicitor, said that it was a landmark judgment that would ensure the needy were protected from local government spending cuts. "This is a very, very bold decision of the House of Lords. We are not going to go down the road of allowing statutory duties to be worn away because there isn't the money. It is also a marvellous victory for Beth. For any child to take on the organs of the state and win is a great result."

East Sussex's statutory duty to provide education for Miss Tandy ends next month when she completes her GCSE exams, but at least one other younger child in the county has been awaiting the outcome of the case before learning whether her tuition would be cut.

East Sussex County Council said in a statement: "We are studying the judgment carefully and reviewing our policy in the light of the announcement. Throughout the legal process, the county council has kept Beth's level of home tuition at the original five hours per week."



Beth Tandy, who will have her five hours of home tuition formally restored after the law lords' decision

The ME Association welcomed the ruling. "This is a victory for common sense," it said. Graham Lane, chairman of the Local Government Association's education committee, said: "It is about time the situation was clarified. There

are lessons for the Government as well as for local authorities... If the Government keeps capping budgets, it is responsible in the end."

The judgment is in contrast to one last year on social services provision, in which the law lords ruled that Gloucestershire County Council was within its rights to deny cleaning and laundry services to a disabled man because of a lack of resources.

Law report, page 43

Exhausted father left teething baby to sleep in car

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN put his nine-month-old son to bed in his car at night so that he could escape the teething baby's crying.

A court was told that Alexander Hunter left his son Martin strapped into his car seat with a half-empty bottle of milk, a dummy and a toy. A special constable discovered the child in the early hours of February 6, covered by only a blanket.

Hunter, 28, from Paulsgrove, Hampshire, yesterday admitted exposing a child to cruelty and was sentenced to 150 hours community service.

Magistrates at Portsmouth were told that Hunter and his common-law wife were exhausted because of the sleepless nights caused by the baby's teething.

Hunter took his son to the car with the intention of taking him for a drive to lull him to sleep. But the father went back inside his home and unintentionally dozed off while sitting on his bed, leaving the child strapped into the car on a street near by.

Shirley Jeffers, for the prosecution, said that the baby was found an hour after being put inside.

Special Constable Keiron Holyome, 19, said: "I glanced into the car as I walked past and thought I saw something unusual."

"When I realised it was a baby I couldn't believe my eyes. The car was open and when I lifted the little chap out he looked me straight in the face and just starting beaming at me."

The baby, who was born prematurely, was taken to hospital where he was declared fit and well before being released into the care of social services.

The magistrates were told that he was currently being looked after by a relative of the parents.

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Shops freed to set own price on TVs and fridges

THE Government yesterday ordered an end to the recommended retail price system, and paved the way for reductions of up to 25 per cent in the price of some electrical goods.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced measures that she said would increase competition in the sale of televisions, hi-fi systems, washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and other electrical goods. The orders also apply to video-cassette recorders, camcorders and tumble driers.

Mrs Beckett said that manufacturers would no longer be permitted to tell retailers at what price the goods should be sold and said they would be banned from refusing supplies to stores that offered discounts. The move follows a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) last year.

Mrs Beckett said yesterday: "I am determined that practices that restrict competition should be stopped. Retailers should be free to set their own prices and should not be refused supply because of their pricing. Consumers should not be denied the benefits of strong price competition."

It will become illegal from September, when the orders come into force, for suppliers to suggest recommended retail

An end to retail pricing controls on electrical goods will bring savings. Robin Young reports

prices to stores, and retailers will be guaranteed liberty to determine their own pricing policies.

Suppliers will be required to set down their criteria for selecting which outlets to supply and will not be allowed to base their choice on the retailers' pricing policies. It will be illegal not to supply stores that meet the manufacturers' criteria and any store refused goods will be able to demand a written explanation.

Retailers will no longer be able to ask suppliers to refuse goods to rivals selling at discounted prices. Mrs Beckett said: "These remedies should ensure that discount retailers can obtain supplies and all retailers have the freedom to sell goods at prices of their choosing. Consumers will have a wider choice of outlets, and benefit from more competitive pricing. These are

tough remedies, but tough action is needed to remedy the problems identified by the MMC and bring benefits to consumers."

The MMC report said that retail prices for electrical goods were being inflated by "widespread and entrenched practices" among suppliers and dealers. New retailers found it hard to get supplies and innovative retailing was being discouraged.

Andrew Fisher, senior policy adviser at the Consumers' Association, said prices could now fall by as much as 25 per cent, especially for washing machines which, he said, were often sold at inflated prices.

He predicted the move would also lead to a resurgence of warehouse shops selling goods at more deeply discounted prices.

"It's an excellent move for the consumer," he said. "For the first time ever there will now be true competition on the high street. Prices will come down, I'm quite sure of that."

□ Tesco is to sell thousands of televisions at knock-down prices a week before the World Cup. The supermarket giant has struck deals with two manufacturers to supply sets to hundreds of stores. Nearly 14,000 Fidelity 14in sets will go on sale for £99 and 10,000 Amstrad 28in sets will be sold for between £200 and £300.



David Ashford, who believes that the Ascender could be built for £50 million



The 8ft model, made of foam and wood, in the air

Model spaceplane gives glimpse of daytrips to come

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AN ENGINEER'S dream of transporting tourists into space had a small-scale breakthrough when an 8ft model of his spaceplane successfully completed two test flights.

David Ashford, designer of the delta-winged Ascender, believes that it will one day take intrepid trippers on sub-orbital flights. On May 8 he set his sights a little lower with the five-minute radio-controlled test flights at Wroughton, Wiltshire.

Mr Ashford admitted that the model, made of foam and wood and powered by two model aircraft engines, was "a small start". The aeronautical engineer believes that Ascender could be built for £50 million — the price of one jet fighter.

The craft is designed to take off from an ordinary airfield with a crew of two and two passengers. Once five miles up, the pilot will start a rocket engine to take it

beyond the atmosphere for a brief sub-orbital flight. A recent report by Nasa and the Space Transportation Association said that the dream of some day taking a trip in space is finally approaching realisation. Mr Ashford says that Ascender could be flying into space within three years, and carrying passengers within seven.

WildWings, a travel agency in Bristol, has started taking bookings for space flights. John Brodie Good, of WildWings, said: "Ascender is the leading candidate for creating a revolution in the way we carry out space business. It is a more realistic and supportable project than its several US competitors."

The obstacle is investment. Each member of Mr Ashford's ten-man team at Bristol Spaceplanes Ltd has another job to support himself. "I am looking for corporate sponsorship or for a wealthy individual," he said.

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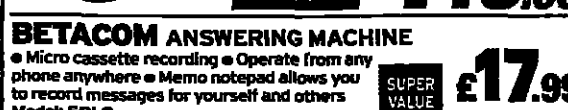


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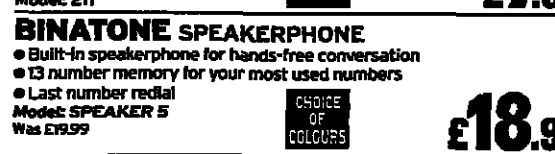


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MPs want inquiry into supermarket meat sales

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

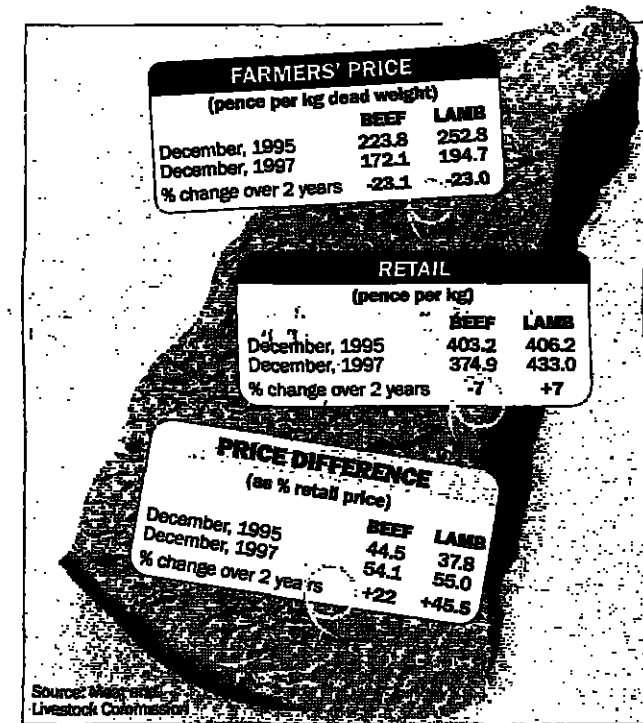
A COMMITTEE of MPs yesterday called for an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into allegations that supermarket pricing policies were deepening the financial crisis in the livestock industry.

The Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee said that sheep and cattle farming in Wales would be "destroyed within a decade" unless emergency aid was forthcoming to reverse its decline. Cattle prices had fallen by 30 per cent over two years, and lamb prices by 39 per cent in a year, the MPs said, but there had been no comparable decline in shop prices and farmers' share of the retail price had "fallen markedly".

Marty Jones, the Labour chairman of the cross-party committee, said: "The price spread — the difference between the farmers' price and the retail price — actually increased while prices in cattle markets were going down."

In their report the MPs said: "On the basis of the evidence available to us, it does not appear that supermarkets have been profiteering at farmers' expense, but they have clearly not been suffering greatly either... It is essential that supermarkets do not use their position of strength to force meat prices down further."

Evidence submitted to the committee by the Meat and



Livestock Commission showed that producer prices for beef and lamb had fallen by about 23 per cent over the two years from December 1995 to December 1997. Over the same period, however, shop prices of beef had fallen on average by no more than 7 per cent, and those of lamb had actually risen by 7 per cent. The farmers' share of the retail price had dropped from between 55 and 62 per cent to 45 per cent.

Supermarkets yesterday de-

nied that their mark-ups on beef and lamb were excessive. The British Retail Consortium, representing the leading chains, said: "We are pleased the committee has concluded that supermarkets have not been profiteering at farmers' expense."

Alan McLaughlin, a senior spokesman for Tesco, said: "There has been a big increase in costs in the middle of the food chain because of the measures taken to combat BSE."

BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint by Barratt Developments PLC - Summary of Adjudication

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has upheld in part a complaint from Barratt Developments plc about a programme in Channel 4's *Dispatches* series called *Brown Land*, broadcast on 21 November 1996. The programme concentrated on residential development of former-use sites and investigated information given to prospective purchasers about the history and condition of the land. The programme featured six former-use developments by national housebuilders, four of which had been built by Barratt. Barratt complained that the programme unfairly singled them out for treatment; the interviews with various interested parties were misleading or inaccurate; and the programme's tone and presentation of Barratt's views and policy were unfair. Barratt also complained that secret filming of their sales agents was unfair and an unwarranted infringement of Barratt's privacy.

The Commission considered that pictures of cracks in a property belonging to an interviewee implied that the damage could have been caused by land-fill. Although the programme's commentary said that investigations into the cause of damage were inconclusive, the Commission considered that the pictures outweighed the commentary and found some unfairness.

The Commission also considered that the programme did not make it clear that the comments of another interviewee were made about Barratt as housebuilder rather than vendor and found that was unfair.

The Commission considered that a surveyor's comments about information available to Barratt concerning landfill gas at the time of the development and sale of one of their sites gave the misleading impression that he had been involved in the preparation of a ground investigation report for that site. The Commission found that the use of his opinions in those circumstances was unfair.

The Commission did not uphold any of the other aspects of the complaint.

Accordingly, the complaint was upheld in part.

You may obtain a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Standards Commission, 7 The Sanctuary, London, SW1P 3JS

Cinema soundtracks blast audiences out of seats

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, IN CANNES

EAR-SPLITTING films are in danger of driving audiences from the cinemas, movie makers were told yesterday. The message of a debate at the Cannes Film Festival was loud and clear: the industry must meet the complaints of a public that can no longer stand a bombardment of explosions, screams and gunfire. The problem has grown so acute that audiences are complaining not only at the cash desk but also at the town hall, said John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Cinema Exhibitors' Association, who was one of the panellists. Local authorities were testing sound levels as a result, he said. He recalled a premiere where the producer turned up the volume so high that "it shook everyone's tummy". Mr Wilkinson said: "It's daft. We want people to have a great night out and come back."

While the younger generation seems not to have a problem with noise, the over-30s are suffering. They like to hear the dialogue but it is often drowned out or distorted. Barry Norman, the television film critic and another panellist, said that he was entirely on the side of the generation that grew up on a diet of Hollywood greats from the 1930s to 1950s, when "the sound was clear and dialogue was paramount". He accepted that young people had already shattered their eardrums and lived with noise throughout their lives, but went on: "Sometimes, I

can hardly bear the noise. I go to the projectionist and say, 'Turn it down or I'm going home'."

In Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World*, "a lot of the dialogue passed me by. There is far too much use of natural or background noise in a mistaken attempt at realism."

Even the most seasoned critics have complained at this week's festival preview of *Armageddon*. Jerry Bruckheimer's special effects production, attacking its "barrage of deafening sound". The continuous level of noise in such films, rather than occasional loud sounds, was criticised yesterday.

Per Hallberg, the Oscar-winning sound designer and editor whose movies include *Braveheart*, agreed that most films were too loud. But he said that setting the right level could be a guessing game, distorted by a cinema's often inferior sound system, the individual projectionist and countries' different noise-level standards. It meant audiences were never quite hearing what the director intended.

The actor, director and producer Mario Van Peebles expressed irritation that commercials, on both the large and small screens, had become so much louder than the shows themselves. With television, he said, "I just click them off. You can't do that in the theatre. You're held hostage. That's when I go popcorn hunting."

The panellists agreed that noise levels are going up partly because the ever-developing technology is there, tempting film-makers to use it even when not needed. Peter Cowie, the international publishing director of *Variety*, which staged the debate, said "sound design" had become so sophisticated that the restored soundtrack of *The Godfather* included purring from the cat on Marlon Brando's lap.

THE DISTURBING ART OF NOISE

Legal cases have been threatened in America after claims that volume levels in cinemas have damaged film-goers' hearing. But the issue is complicated because levels are decided by directors and sound companies before a film's release. Cinemas try to keep to the director's wishes but can turn the sound down.

The loudest recommended level for films is 85 decibels, equivalent to standing next to a busy main road. But in the train crash scene in the 1993 film *The Fugitive*, levels reached 103 decibels. At 120 decibels the level is the same as standing next to a pneumatic drill. Michael Deener, Dolby's cinema application engineer, said: "Films can be so loud that the cinema turns them down, the directors find out and so make their next film even louder. It is ridiculous."



Van Peebles: deafened

Film reviews, pages 36, 37



Brooke Shields, in Cannes to promote *The Weekend*, blows a kiss to camera

Foreign films 'urgently need room for a view'

BY DALYA ALBERGE

ONE of the world's leading producers yesterday attacked the way "money and greed" were excluding European art films from British screens. Ismail Merchant, the Anglo-Indian producer who established Merchant Ivory with James Ivory and made classics such as *A Room With A View* and *The Remains of the Day*, said: "Fewer and fewer good films are being distributed in Britain. What is being done is an unhealthy destruction of foreign films coming to Britain."

He blamed "money and greed... a big crocodile eating the little ones". Art cinemas were being forced by commercial pressures and a lack of support from the industry or the Government "to show blockbusters rather than great films that happen to be subtitled. That is a tragedy."

Speaking at the Cannes Film Festival, where *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, about an American family in Paris in the 1960s is among his latest movies being promoted — he said that audiences were losing out because of the closure of prominent art cinemas such as the Academy and the Lumiere in

London — bought by property developers — and others in Cambridge, Oxford, Birmingham and Manchester.

The problem, he suggested, was the stranglehold of commerce on the industry: companies bought up movies and needed to make the most of the lucrative subsidiary market in video and cable.

He expressed sadness at the "push-button approach" — the desperation to make \$40 million (£24 million) in the first week. "We are copying the Americans instead of being original. France is still the country for cinema."

He called on the Government to intervene, perhaps with tax incentives for art cinemas: "Unless the Government does something in Britain, we will go down the tube. We have to fight this so those distributors get the support from government."

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday: "I am not sure that tax incentives in the cinema-owner end of the scale is necessarily the way forward."

He added: "There are independent cinemas not just in London. There is the infrastructure. It is a matter of encouraging them."

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Welfare to Work helps just 800 single parents

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JUST 800 single parents have found work under the Government's first Welfare to Work programme to be put into practice, the New Deal for single parents.

Early results from pilot projects in eight areas, covering 72,000 single parents with children of school age, show that the scheme has had a success rate of between 1 and 2 per cent in its first ten months of operation. Among people signing on for the first time, it has been more successful, with 7 per cent of participants finding work.

Despite the low take-up of the scheme, social security sources said that the results were encouraging. They said that if the figures were repeated nationally there would be between 5,000 and 10,000 people having found work out of the 500,000 unemployed

single parents with school-age children.

"For a completely new programme starting from scratch, these results are good," a source said.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, said the independent Social and Community Planning Research figures showed that the New Deal was having a measurable impact on the lives of single parents and their children. Those who had found jobs through the scheme were on average £39 a week better off.

The State had also benefited, she said, because the value of benefits paid to single parents who had found a job under the scheme had reduced by £42 a week.

"With more lone parents working, there will be more families better off, and fewer children being brought up in

workless households," she said.

Unless the programme produces more striking results, however, pressure is likely to grow on the Government to introduce an element of compulsion into the programme to ensure that single parents attend jobcentre interviews.

The New Deal for single parents, which was extended nationally to all new claimants from last month. The scheme was launched in July 1997 and provides a personal adviser to help each single parent with training, childcare, benefits and job preparation. The programme is voluntary and is aimed at those on income support whose children are of school age.

The cost of launching the New Deal for single parents in the first ten months of its operation in the eight pilot areas was about £6.5 million, compared with an estimated saving in state benefit of about £1.5 million.

Ministers hope to see an accelerated success rate as the programme becomes better known and as the personal advisers become more skilled. They also hope that the take-up will improve as the Government's national childcare strategy is implemented, providing after-school clubs and childcare subsidies.

Ministers ill-informed

MINISTERS were kept in the dark by Social Security Department officials about a scheme to prevent disability benefit fraud (Nicholas Watt writes). They waited a month after the general election before informing Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the minister supposed to be in charge of the scheme, which had been

introduced by the Tories. The officials told her over her mobile phone at Preston railway station. The oversight was revealed in a report by the Social Security Select Committee. The report criticised the department's timing of the Benefit Integrity Project, which it said uncovered hardly any fraud.



Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, celebrated 25 years in the Commons yesterday. Her colleagues presented her with a fruit cake laced with brandy and sherry and bearing an edible model of the mace. There was a candle for every

Celebration is in order

year that she has been an MP since winning West Bromwich in a by-election. Miss Boothroyd said

she had not seen many changes at Westminster; but new MPs nowadays had more confidence than she had in 1973. "At the time the Chief Whip told me to keep my trap shut — and just speak when you have something to say."

Cook's hubris is the real source of all his troubles

ROBIN COOK is not nearly as bad a Foreign Secretary as he has recently been painted. But then no British Foreign Secretary any longer has the chance to be either as good as he claims or as bad as his opponents charge.

Foreign policy is now largely about incremental steps here and there. Big leaps forward are seldom on the agenda. So Foreign Secretaries are best advised to be modest. The real reason why Mr Cook is now in trouble is that he entered office claiming to have made a completely fresh start. He is paying for his hubris.

As so often, the best corrective to the hype has come from Douglas Hurd, who has become even more headmasterly since he left office. In a speech to the Tory Reform Group this week, Lord Hurd of Westwell argued that Mr Cook's problem was his style and method, not his foreign policy, where there had been considerable continuity with the Major Government.

He cited the approach to the Gulf crisis in the early spring, Bosnia (though the Blair Government has been more aggressive about pursuing war criminals), enlargement of the European Union, Cyprus, the Arab-Israeli dispute and Hong Kong. Lord Hurd underestimates the personal impact of Tony Blair in Europe, even though claims about leading Europe are overblown and often counter-productive.

Lord Hurd maintained, with rather a grand flourish, that "new Labour has stood on Tory shoulders and carried forward what we were trying to achieve. Like every incoming Foreign Secretary of any party, Robin Cook altered the compass by a few degrees."

According to Lord Hurd, Labour had carried forward existing discussions about landmines and an International Criminal Court, and altered by "a word or two" the criteria for overseas arms sales.

Mr Cook would no doubt argue that he has done more. But his claims have undoubtedly run well ahead of his achievements. His emphasis on the ethical dimension of foreign policy has always looked humbug, pious aspirations with little connection with the realities of British

interests. Similarly, as Lord Hurd argued, the Annual Report on Human Rights vastly exaggerated the shift in policy over the past year. All Foreign Secretaries balance human rights with trade and security interests in their contacts with authoritarian regimes.

Lord Hurd had sympathy with Mr Cook over recent episodes which have got him into the headlines. "I did not criticise him when he found himself in a pot of bubbling stew first in India during the Queen's visit and then in Palestine. Indeed I felt a twinge of sympathy as I remembered how nearly I had been boiled alive when venturing remarks on both the Kashmir and the Arab-Israeli dispute. These things happen. Sometimes a Foreign Secretary finds himself in a predicament from which there can be no happy outcome."

Mr Cook's position now is

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

worse both because of the grand claims he made a year ago and because, in Lord Hurd's words, "the engine of government is clanking and grinding unhappily". The Foreign Office is not working as it should. That is partly as a result of Mr Cook's prickly style. But in a sense this is a symptom of a wider problem — the tendency of many ministers to behave as if they were still in opposition and to be distant from the Civil Service.

Mr Cook is confident that he will be exonerated by the Legg inquiry. But he has been damaged. Perhaps he now regrets that he decided against going north and becoming First Minister in Edinburgh. He remains the foremost advocate of constitutional reform in the Cabinet, alongside Lord Irvine of Lairg. So perhaps later in the Parliament he might become constitutional supremo, especially if Mr Blair opts for electoral reform at Westminster. That is a cause which Mr Cook would lead with gusto and passion.

PETER RIDDELL

IN PARLIAMENT

Today in the Commons: Treasury questions; debate on European Common Agricultural Policy; short debate on Amos Vale cemetery.

In the Lords: Magistrates' Courts (Procedure) Bill, Commons amendments; Tax Credits

(Initial Expenditure) Bill, all stages; European Communities (Amendment) Bill, third reading; Contracting Out (Functions relating to National Savings) Order; Broadcasting (Percentage of Digital Capacity for Radio Multiplex Licence) Order.

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There's a Great Deal going on

More cash promised for NHS

TONY BLAIR promised more money yesterday to bring down hospital waiting lists, but said that it would be provided only when higher health service spending was "prudent" (Polly Newton writes).

He made the commitment during Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons after taunts from the Tory leader, William Hague, about Labour's pre-election pledge to cut waiting lists by 100,000. Figures due out today are expected to show waiting for operations has gone up by 150,000 since last May.

Mr Hague said the Prime Minister should be ashamed of the Government's "complete and utter failure" to keep its promises.

Mr Blair said: "We've put some £2 billion more than Conservative spending plans into the health service and we will put more money in over the next few years."

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Lack of funds stifles hope for Parkinson's sufferers

New operation brings applause and tears of joy, but the chance to have it is restricted, Ian Murray reports

A BRAIN implant for Parkinson's Disease sufferers was licensed for use yesterday after trials showed it can dramatically reduce the violent shakes that make their lives so difficult. However, most health authorities are refusing to fund the £15,000 treatments, and most patients will be from Ireland and Holland, whose Governments are prepared to pay for their care in Britain.

The restriction was criticised by Mary Baker, president of the European Parkinson's Disease Association, who said the operation was the only long-term hope for many sufferers, as medication usually ceased to control the condition after about ten years. "It may cost a great deal, but so does providing full-time care. And you cannot put a price on quality of life."

He was diagnosed with the disease in 1983 when he was 37 and working as a builder and decorator. Medication initially controlled the condition but

within ten years he was forced to give up work and by 1994 he was using a wheelchair to move about his home at Crediton, Devon.

Neurologists at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital referred him to Bristol where Steven Gill, a consultant neurosurgeon at the Frenchay Hospital, was investigating ways to remove brain tissue that causes the shaking. He burned out a tiny malfunctioning piece of tissue, no more than 4mm across, that had sent wrong signals.

Mr Gill operated in 1996. For a short while, Mr Sandercock was able to regain

control of his right-side limbs. But within a year, the illness began seriously to affect his left side. Mr Gill knew that another operation to remove tissue would have a 30 per cent risk of removing the ability to speak. He decided that the best hope was a pioneering technique developed in France, which involves inserting an electrode into the brain, powered by a generator that sends a mild stimulation to block the wrong brain signals.

The target area is 1mm. To find it, the patient's head is immobilised and passed through a magnetic scanner. Mr Sandercock's wife,

Maggie, 53, was in the theatre last November watching the four-hour operation. When the electrode was in place her husband had to be woken so the surgeons could watch how he responded when it was fired.

Twice Mr Gill tried without success, moving the electrode point microscopically between attempts. The third time, Mr Sandercock's body relaxed and he stopped shaking. "Everyone in the theatre broke into applause," Mrs Sandercock said yesterday. "I was crying. Suddenly I had my husband back again."

Yesterday Mr Sandercock stood in front of a press conference looking relaxed, then wiped a small magnetic switch across his chest. Instantly his body began to shake and twist. "I usually do this to music," he joked. The movements became more tormented. This was how he was before the implant. He switched on the device again, and everyone sighed with relief.

The device works at two speeds, the intermediate one controlling some movement but allowing him to speak more loudly and to save current on the battery, which needs to be replaced every four

to five years. The £4,000 unit under the skin of the chest is replaced in a relatively simple operation. The electrodes in the brain are permanent, but can be removed if they cease to be effective.

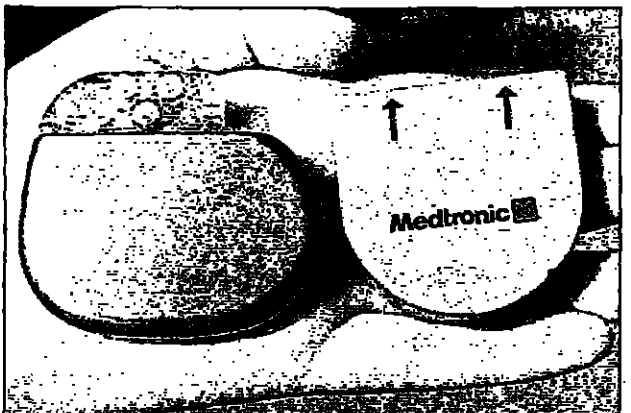
About 30 patients in Britain have been fitted with the device, but Mr Sandercock is the first to have the electrode implanted below the thalamus, the walnut-sized knot of nerve cells at the centre of the brain which acts as the switchboard for all sensory perceptions. Successfully fitting it there means the treatment should be effective for more than 90 per cent of Parkinson's patients who no longer respond to normal medication.

The operation is so difficult that only three hospitals in Britain are prepared to attempt it regularly. Apart from Bristol, they are King's College Hospital in London and the Dundee Royal Infirmary. Mr Gill, the Bristol neurosurgeon, said he was treating patients from Ireland and Holland — the treatment is not available in their countries — but hardly any were being referred in Britain.

He said of the national funding problem: "They don't want to provide the money because they say the treatment is not proven. They say we must carry out randomised trials but won't provide the money for this. I don't know of any case that has failed."



"Satch" Sandercock at home. His wife said: "Suddenly I had my husband back"



The chest generator, left, and external activator

Scientists find damaged gene linked to cervical cancer risk

By NIGEL HAWKES

A GENETIC variation that makes some women seven times more likely to develop cervical cancer has been discovered.

Women with a particular version of the gene for a protein that protects against cancer are the ones at risk. Alan Storey and colleagues from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund report in *Nature*.

The protein, called p53, is one of the first lines of defence against cancer, and many cancers are linked to damage to the p53 gene. In this case, the team says, the gene

is stopped from working by a protein produced by a virus, the human papillomavirus, believed to be a cause of cervical cancer.

What happens is that the protein binds to the p53, and helps to break it down. But natural variations in p53 determine just how effective this process is. Women with a form of p53 that is easily broken down stand a much greater chance of getting cervical cancer.

The variation occurs at a single point along the p53 protein, at position 72. The amino acid at this point may be either proline, or arginine. If it is arginine, the p53 as

a whole is far more easily broken down. Those in whom both copies of the gene produce a protein with arginine at position 72 are especially vulnerable. "In future, testing for p53 status may prove to be another useful tool in assessing a woman's risk of developing cervical cancer," Dr Storey said.

The findings also have implications for skin cancers linked to HPV infection and exposure to sunlight. Organ transplant patients, who take drugs to suppress their immune systems, have a high risk of developing this type of cancer, called squamous cell carcinoma.

Nature beats nurture for top athletes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TOUGH guys are born, not made, scientists have discovered. Those with the right genes can climb higher and respond better to training than those with the wrong ones, probably because their muscle cells are better at taking up nutrients and oxygen, according to Hugh Montgomery, of University College London Centre for Cardiovascular Research.

This is the first gene to be found that influences athletic performance in endurance sports. The best marathon runners and mountaineers are likely to possess the gene, the team believes.

The gene involved is responsible for making angiotensin-converting

enzyme (ACE). The role of this enzyme in the body is to convert a peptide, angiotensin, from an inactive to an active form, which in turn causes contraction of the muscles and raises blood pressure. People with high blood pressure are often prescribed ACE inhibitors to suppress the enzyme's activity.

The hope is that understanding the ACE gene will help to reduce damage in heart attacks and strokes, when blood supply is blocked and a means of enabling cells to make the most of what is available could save lives.

The ACE gene is found in two forms in human beings, one known as the D and the other as the I form.

Because we all carry two copies of each gene, this means there are three possibilities: we may have two copies of D, two of I, or one of each. The UCL team took DNA samples from 25 mountaineers, all of whom had proved able to climb above 7,000 metres without supplementary oxygen. When compared with most British men, more of the mountaineers had the I form.

Then Dr Montgomery's team examined 123 army recruits. It found that a quarter had the I form, 60 per cent the D form, and 15 per cent the DD form. The team measured the length of time each recruit could flex his elbow while holding a 15kg weight, and mea-

sured it again at the end of a ten-week training programme. Again, it reports in *Nature*, it was the I types who did best, showing an improvement as a result of fitness training which was 11 times greater than that shown by the DD types. The I types fell between the two extremes.

The result does not show that DD types are destined to be the weaklings caricatured in bodybuilding advertisements, but that they are certainly at some genetic disadvantage if they try to climb Everest without oxygen. No women were tested, but there is no reason to doubt that women would have a similar genetic variation.

LAURA ASHLEY

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Iran opens door to new era of European detente

By MICHAEL EVANS

A NEW era of relations between Iran and the European Union has been opened after the first positive talks between a senior Foreign Office official and his counterpart from Tehran.

If other planned "substantive" talks between officials in the next few weeks produce equally positive results, Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister responsible for the Middle East, could head a delegation to Tehran, the first such visit since the Iranian revolution in 1979.



Fatchett: might lead a visit to Iran for talks

The breakthrough in diplomatic relations, which have wavered between crisis and stalemate for nearly two decades, has been made possible because of the perceived moderate leadership of President Khatami since he took power last August. Although the Foreign Office, which took part in the talks on Tuesday in Brussels because of Britain's position as President of the EU, was being cautious about future relations with Iran, the "step-by-step" approach could also eventually lead to the return of a British ambassador to Tehran. The embassy has been headed by a chargé d'affaires since 1990. In the 1980s, Britain's relations with

senior Iranian official focused on the agenda for more detailed meetings on political, economic and cultural relations, which are expected to lead to contacts between ministers.

Despite the more positive atmosphere between Iran and the EU, there remain five key issues that could still undermine the improving relations unless President Khatami can demonstrate that he has the political power to resolve them.

They are: the fatwa against Salman Rushdie, the author; Iran's weapons of mass destruction programme; its continuing role in state-sponsored terrorism; Tehran's poor human rights record; and its unhelpful position on the Middle East peace process.

A visit by Mr Fatchett to Tehran is one option if the

talks with officials make progress in these five areas. Britain hands over the EU presidency to Austria on June 30, but will remain part of the so-called EU troika of ministers for another six months. The troika would probably go to Tehran.

The EU had previously held a "critical dialogue" with Iran, but those talks did not progress beyond a bout of shadow boxing with Tehran over Mr Rushdie, the evidence of state-sponsored terrorism and the other issues that prevented Iran from being accepted as a normal member of the international community. The critical dialogue was suspended after Iran was accused of being behind a terrorist bombing outrage in a restaurant in Berlin.

The new talks are aimed at giving maximum encouragement to President Khatami to pursue his moderate policies, which are opposed by the more radical clerics, and in particular by Ayatollah Khamenei, the spiritual leader.

The change in atmosphere between Iran and the West was boosted last week after the EU summit with President Clinton in London when the United States ended the threat of American sanctions against companies trading with Iran. The biggest stumbling block for Britain, however, is the death sentence imposed on Mr Rushdie in 1989 by the late Ayatollah Khomeini after publication of his book, *The Satanic Verses*. Tehran has said the fatwa cannot be revoked.

A Foreign Office official said that if a ministerial visit to Tehran was arranged in the future, it would be highly symbolic. However, it was likely, the official said, that the first ministerial discussions would be held in Europe. The official said: "No decision has been made yet. At present we are just dipping our toes into the water."

In a recent interview with CNN, President Khatami made it clear that he was interested in starting a dialogue with the United States.



President Khatami, whose perceived moderate leadership has made possible the potential breakthrough in diplomatic relations between Brussels and Tehran

Tehran consents to political party

Tehran: A group of senior officials backing Iran's moderate President Khatami has won government permission to form a political party, with Gholam Hossein Karbaschi, the Mayor of Tehran, as its secretary-general. It was reported. But on the day of the announcement, Ayatollah

Muhammad Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, confirmed after an investigation that Mr Karbaschi is to be tried on corruption charges.

The party, the Servants of Construction, is among the first authorised in the country since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The group, popularly

known as G-6, was formed on the eve of parliamentary elections two years ago by six centrist officials. It was instrumental in mustering the support of voters behind Mr Khatami during last year's presidential polls in which conservative candidates were defeated. (Reuters, AFP)

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Bhutto adds to pressure for Pakistan nuclear test

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

DAYS after deciding that it would explode a nuclear device, the Pakistan Government is divided over whether to go ahead — and if so, when. Indecision has brought a clamour of protests by opposition parties demanding an immediate demonstration of nuclear equality with India.

Benazir Bhutto, the Opposition leader — back in the country after another of her frequent foreign trips — is demanding that a nuclear test be conducted swiftly. Some right-wing religious parties are expressing their desire for the immediate development of an "Islamic bomb" in response to India's race to be the first to put nuclear tips on its missiles.

The odds may still favour a Pakistani test, given the huge public support for one, but the dithering has left the impression that the Government is seeking a face-saving way of doing nothing. Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, has been notably less strident in his public statements than other ministers, reflecting his nervousness at the economic and

diplomatic consequences of detonating a nuclear device.

Pakistan's economy is a tenth the size of India's and its rupee is fully convertible, unlike India's, raising the possibility of huge capital flight if a test were carried out.

Japan, a key donor country, has warned that it would suspend aid. The Government has considered delaying a test while it rides out the latest economic crisis. Mr Sharif might decide he can survive the short-term political damage of not testing immediately, since he has a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

India doubtless wants Pakistan to conduct a test, aware that this would further enfeeble its economy and deflect international condemnation from Delhi to Islamabad. India has sharply increased its rhetoric over Kashmir, saying that the time has come for a tough stand to stop Pakistan's support of separatist militants in the Kashmir valley — remarks probably designed to strengthen demands in Pakistan for a nuclear test.

India accused Pakistan of sending mercenaries into its portion of Kashmir and said it was time to stop its "stoking" of terrorism — remarks that have been widely interpreted in Pakistan as a threat to invade the Pakistani side of the former princely state. Mr Sharif said he took the Indian "threats" seriously.

But he went on to hint at his reluctance to conduct a nuclear test as a warning to India. He condemned the international community's failure to co-ordinate harsh sanctions against Delhi, adding: "Had the world severely punished India I could have told my people that now there is no justification to detonate our nuclear device. But this is not happening."

Shamshad Ahmed, head of Pakistan's Foreign Office, has returned from talks in Beijing in which he discussed the possibility of a Pakistani test. Government sources claim that China, which has supplied most of Pakistan's nuclear technology, did not seek to influence Islamabad on whether or when to conduct an explosion.

'Web of rage' traps Israeli spin-doctor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S top spin-doctor was fighting to save his job yesterday after an opinion poll found more Israelis believed *The New Yorker's* account of his demeaning remarks about the Prime Minister's wife than accepted his denials.

The Gallup poll — 46 per cent believed the article, 52 per cent the denials — published by Tel Aviv's *Maariv* increased pressure on Binyamin Netanyahu to fire David Bar-Illan, his communications director and close friend, after his remarks about the mental stability of Sara Netanyahu and the sexual antics of the late Moshe Dayan provoked a storm.

Maariv cited the "growing rage" of Mrs Netanyahu, of whom Mr Bar-Illan was alleged by David Rennick, the Pulitzer prize-winning US journalist, to have said: "Sara is not the most stable woman in the world." Emmanuel Rozen, an Israeli television commentator, said Mr Bar-Illan's future lay in her hands.

The paper also noted that Israel's influential rabbis were furious with Mr Bar-Illan, a former Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*, for allegedly telling Mr Rennick that no opprobrium would be attached to sleeping with a non-Jewish woman because "even rabbis do it".

Yael Dayan, a Knesset member and the daughter of General Dayan, condemned the insult to him, saying Mr Bar-Illan should go.

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Falklands oil strike after two-week search

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER only two weeks of drilling, an international oil company has discovered oil in the waters off the Falklands, raising the prospect of an oil bonanza in the South Atlantic. The US-owned Amerada Hess company which began exploration in one of the licensed tranches 200 miles to the north of the Falklands has brought up traces of oil. The speed of its discovery has convinced some experts that there are vast reserves beneath the seabed and that test drillings in other tranches may also prove lucky.

Oil experts were cautious. The Falklands Islands Government has suggested that a medium-to-large field of 500 million barrels could yield more than £1 billion in royalties. That would make every man, woman and child in the islands, whose total population is 2,100, among the richest in the world.

Amerada Hess, however, said that the champagne corks were not popping yet. "We do not know whether this is just a trace, whether the oil has leaked away or whether we will find any in commercial quantities. Only one in eleven wells in the North Sea yields visible quantities of oil."

However, news of the oil strike will spur a race to develop the rich resources of the South Atlantic which inevitably will transform life in the sparse, windswept islands. Drilling is to continue for another ten to fourteen days and the rig will then be passed to Lasmo, another consortium that has won licences in nearby tranches. The international oil companies have all agreed to use the same drilling equipment and share seismic information in order to keep down the costs of exploration.

Falklanders are anxious that their simple way of life

will be swept away in a fever of development and a huge influx of population. The islands' semi-autonomous governing council has commissioned several development plans to look at how any offshore industry could be serviced and how to limit the impact of the industry on the fragile environment and the endangered wildlife.

The prospect of an oil boom has raised the strategic value of the islands which Britain fought to free from an Argentine invasion in 1982. It is also likely to trigger a battle with the Treasury over how much of the royalty money remains in the Falklands, a British dependent territory, and how much will be sent to London.

The last Conservative Government made clear that although dependent territories were normally entitled to their own mineral resources, it believed that Britain should re-

ceive some of the oil money. The islanders, anticipating such pressure, have offered to pay the estimated costs of the British garrison in the islands, £67 million a year.

There are 12 licensed tranches in the sea north of the Falklands. To the west, where the economic zones of the Falklands and Argentina overlap, a special regime has been set up to allow exploration without compromising the sovereignty claims of each side. Bidding for licences there is due to start soon.

An oil-rich Falklands would be an even bigger prize for Argentina, which is still hoping to open talks with Britain on the future status of the islands. President Menem is to pay his first visit to Britain in November and is expected to bring up the question of the islands despite the Government's insistence that that is not on the agenda.



Desmond Tutu yesterday being given the freedom of Cape Town, the city where as Archbishop he campaigned and preached against the apartheid regime. He received the honour on behalf of his jailed or exiled colleagues

Russia's novice leader faces crisis over wages

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

SERGEI KIRIYENKO faced his first major crisis as Russian Prime Minister yesterday as tens of thousands of workers downed tools and joined demonstrations across the country over the non-payment of wages.

Mr Kiriyenko, whose appointment was confirmed three weeks ago after a month-long tussle between President Yeltsin and the Communist-dominated Duma, met the leaders of Siberian miners who have been on strike for the past two weeks to demand wages overdue by up to six months. The miners have blocked both rail routes across Siberia, prompting Aman Tuleyev, Governor of Kemerovo

region, to declare a state of emergency.

Mr Kiriyenko said after his talks that Mr Yeltsin had signed a decree ordering wages to the miners to be paid in full ten days ago. There seemed no likelihood, however, that the miners would give up their protest until they received the money.

They have been joined by protesters in other sectors. About 200 scientists in the Far East region of Vladivostok blocked major roads out of the city on Tuesday and in Moscow yesterday, thousands of teachers and students marched on the Education Ministry to protest against a lack of funding.

Miners' strikes have continued intermittently over recent years amid the breakdown of the Soviet system that ensured special supplies and bonuses to an area of the economy notorious for its harsh conditions. But with huge coal stockpiles and reduced demand in the summer, the miners have little leverage. Their plight highlights the predicament that the Russian Government faces with the economy. When Mr Yeltsin sacked the previous Government, he pointed to its failure to deal with the wage arrears issue. Consequently, it is Mr Kiriyenko's first priority.



Kiriyenko: made wage arrears his priority



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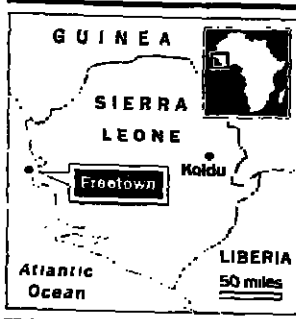
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Diamond hunters seek jungle fortune

THE Soviet-built helicopter, known as "Bokkie", clattered not so much over the jungle canopy, as through it. A pair of South Africans were at the controls. Also on board were an Ethiopian engineer, a giant Fijian door gunner, a couple of Nigerian peacekeepers, and three Afrikaner security guards.



Koidu, the centre of Sierra Leone's diamond trade, has been in the hands of rebels. Sam Kiley flew with a team of mercenaries to the ravaged city

British businessmen who have devoted their lives to trying to make money amid Sierra Leone's bloody upheavals — there have been three coups in six years — settled back for an hour's sleep. "We're only interested in what has happened to our plant machinery," explained Mr Nolan, who comes from Motherwell, Scotland. "We were all set to go when the coup happened [in May last year]."

The Afrikaners had come along to guard the businessmen. As members of Life Guard, they were hitching a ride with Sandline International, the mercenary organisation which shares offices with DiamondWorks and Branch Mining in the Kings Road. The mining company owns the rights to the Koidu kimberlite pipe, one of the richest deposits of gem quality diamonds in the world.

Little could have prepared even the hardened South Africans for what has been done to Koidu. The city of more than 100,000 people no longer exists. Before they were driven out two weeks ago, the rebels "Operation Pay Yourself" — a looting rampage — and "Operation No Living Thing" destroyed it. Every building was burned down.

Civilians who survived the onslaught fled into the surrounding bush, where they continue to fall victim to rebel atrocities including mass rape, murder, amputations and a twisted game called "rebel roulette" in which victims pick their fate — whether they are to lose an eye, an ear, a leg, or their heads — from bits of paper on the ground.

Dominic Moussa, a lawyer trained at Greys Inn, has returned to Koidu after three months hiding in the bush. He said the city's civilians had been forced into labouring for the rebels in diamond digs. "If you refused, they shot you."

The DiamondWorks operation on the edge of the city was wrecked by the rebels who destroyed about 7 million worth of equipment. As the mercenaries wandered through the wreckage, a nearby hulk exploded with gun fire. The group ducked behind the spades of burned out bulldozers. A Nigerian radio crackled. "We got 'm, we got 'm. He dead," was the message. "Good," was the collective response.

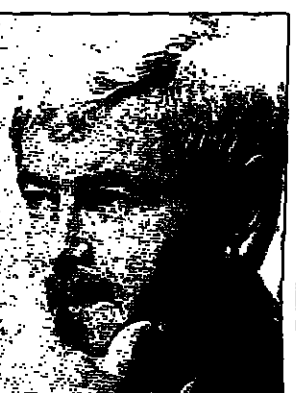
Kabbah plea for guns

New York President Kabbah of Sierra Leone has written to Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, to ask for the UN arms embargo to be lifted so that Nigerian-led peacekeepers can bring more weapons into the country (James Bone writes).

The US supports reinforcing the Ecomog peacekeeping mission to suppress a continued rebellion in the east of the country. Britain suggested in the Security Council this week that it favoured a new UN peacekeeping operation to be sent there to maintain order.

Clinton 'traded US security for Beijing funds'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON
NEWT GINGRICH, the House Speaker, is to create a Watergate-style panel to investigate charges that President Clinton put America's security in jeopardy in return for illegal Chinese contributions to his re-election campaign.



Gingrich: "Nothing to do with campaign finance"

The new select committee, expected to be in place before Mr Clinton's planned visit to Beijing next month, is the sharpest Republican response to potentially explosive accusations that a Chinese military officer sent nearly \$100,000 to the Democratic campaign at a time when the President was overruling his own bureaucracy to relax export controls on the transfer of satellite technology to Beijing.

Mr Gingrich said that the panel, modelled on the Senate Watergate committee of the Nixon era and chaired by Christopher Cox, a former counsel to President Reagan, would focus on recent reports that Liu Chaoying, a lieutenant-colonel in the Chinese Army and daughter of a general, had donated the funds to a senior Democratic fundraiser in 1996.

It would also investigate whether Loral Space and Communications, a satellite manufacturer, already at the heart of a Justice Department inquiry, passed sensitive technology to China. Bernard Schwartz, the company's chief executive, was the largest single donor to the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1996.

"But this has nothing to do with campaign finance," Mr Gingrich said. "This has to do with the security of the United States. And the effort by the Chinese military to penetrate our political system and the effort by some people to give the Chinese secrets in violation of American law."

The disclosures of the past week have given the Republicans a filip at a time when the Whitewater investigation has retreated from the news and the President's alleged sexual

misconduct has failed to excite the public. In this case, a branch of Mr Clinton's Administration is investigating whether his official acts as President altered agreed foreign policy and affected the nation's security. The investigation also has the potential to damage Al Gore, the Vice-President and Democratic frontrunner for the presidency in 2000. Mr Gore has for many years spoken of the dangers of weapon and missile technology proliferation, but it was he who appeared at a Buddhist temple in 1996 to raise campaign funds. The funds raised were alleged to have come from foreign donors, which is illegal.

Although the White House has denied that Chinese donations changed national guidelines on satellite exports, Mr Clinton in fact reversed his policy five months after Warren Christopher, then Secretary of State, had sought to limit China's ability to launch American-made satellites using Chinese rockets.

During last year's hearings into illicit contributions, the Administration said that it had not exchanged policy benefits for large donations. Now the White House maintains that the President made the change not because of campaign contributions but to improve American competitiveness and to streamline the bureaucracy.

Hackers can cripple Internet in 30 minutes

BY TOM RHODES
A BAND of America's top computer hackers claims it could cripple the Internet in half an hour and, given more time and money, interrupt satellite transmissions and spy on the President.

The Boston group, testifying before the Senate, said that by interfering with links between long-distance telephone carriers it could disrupt the Internet service for at least two days in just 30 minutes.

The seven hackers, dressed in black suits, identified themselves only by their Internet aliases, including Mudge, Brian Oblivion and Space Rogue. Known as L0pht, the hackers meet in a Boston loft every week to discuss weaknesses in computer, cellular telephone and other communications networks.

They were called to Capitol Hill as part of Senate hearings into the security of government and commercial computer and telecommunications networks. The Government has found that the State Department and Federal Aviation Administration's air-control system are vulnerable to hacking.

On Friday President Clinton will announce the creation of two government organisations to deal with information warfare and the appointment of a "terrorism czar" to co-ordinate counter-terrorism efforts.

In a test, congressional investigators were able to access the travel itineraries of US diplomats, employment records and e-mail traffic and were able to take control of the State Department's computers. Stock exchanges, the Federal Reserve and taxpayer records are also at risk.

But the hackers said it was difficult to change data or issue commands. The Global Positioning Satellite System, used for navigation in military and some civilian aircraft, can be jammed but a hacker would be hard pressed to move its position.

Actress endured life of chastity



Ms Channing said she

twice during our 41-year marriage and that was 41 years ago. We have never been intimate again to the present day. As a result, she says, her life has been one of prolonged and enforced chastity. "I have always been loyal to him, and never during the course of our 41-year marriage had any affairs or been intimate with anyone else."

Through her lawyer, the celebrated "divorce-meister" Raoul Felder, Ms Channing also alleges that Mr Lowe assaulted her regularly and spent much of her money "like a drunken sailor". Mr Felder has asked the court to freeze Ms Channing's assets immediately, lest Mr Lowe spend any more on himself.



Two-day ordeal of woman in cliff fall

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HER neck broken and deep purple gashes snaking across her face, Janet McAllister considers herself a very lucky woman.

Mrs McAllister, 44, was in a stable condition yesterday after sliding on loose mud and rocks and falling as much as 50ft down a cliff at Tillamook Head on the Oregon coast. She had landed halfway down, her face gushing blood and a vertebra in her neck fractured. She braced herself against a tree and spent two nights huddled under rocks and leaves, trying to flag down fishing boats, surfers, a helicopter and even hang-gliders.

Finally she crawled back to her car, swallowed some painkillers and slept for hours before finding two boys in the car park who called an ambulance.

An avid explorer who worked on storm drain maintenance for the city of Hillsboro, Mrs McAllister is expected to make a full recovery after treatment.

"All Christopher Reeve did was ride a horse," Mrs McAllister said, referring to the paralysed screen actor. "I'm so fortunate that I am not paralysed."

"I'm so fortunate that I'm not paralysed," said Janet McAllister, who spent two nights on a cliff face with a broken neck after slipping on mud and rocks

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Priceless Van Goghs stolen to order

Police believe a crooked collector set up the daring raid on a Rome museum, writes Richard Owen

INTERPOL launched an international hunt yesterday for two priceless masterpieces by Van Gogh and a valuable landscape by Cézanne after a daring burglary at the Museum of Modern Art in Rome.

General Roberto Conforti, head of the carabinieri anti-theft unit, said the paintings had almost certainly been stolen to order since they were so well-known that they would have no value on the open market. They are thought to have been taken either by a "criminal collector" or with the intention of claiming a ransom for their safe return.

Police said the three thieves had clearly been professionals, who had targeted the three works: *The Gardener*, by Van Gogh, a portrait of the gardener at the asylum to which Van Gogh was committed at St Rémy near Arles, painted in 1889; *L'Arlesienne*, a portrait of the wife of a café proprietor in Arles, painted by Van Gogh a few months before he committed suicide in 1890; and an unfinished landscape by Cézanne called *Le Cabanon de Jourdan*, the last oil painting he is known to have been worked on.

Police said the thieves had taken advantage of new rules introduced by Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, under which many of Italy's moribund state-run museums are being modernised and renovated, with opening hours increased so that visitors can enjoy works of art in the evening. Signor Veltronisaid the robbery was very unusual. He said the burglars had waited until the museum closed its doors at 10pm and had then hidden. They had tied up the three women security guards and forced them to turn off the alarm



The two priceless Van Goghs — *L'Arlesienne*, left, and *The Gardener* — and, below, Cézanne's *Le Cabanon de Jourdan*. Police said the paintings are so well-known that they would have no value on the open market

system before stealing the paintings. Flavia Gandolfi, one of the guards, said she and her two colleagues had been bound at the hands, wrists and ankles with electric wire. The guards said they had been taken by surprise because the burglars had taken off their shoes and crept up on them in stocking feet.

Signora Gandolfi said one of the burglars had held her and her colleagues at gunpoint while the other two took the paintings off the wall. The three women were then locked in the toilets, but later managed to raise the alarm.

Signor Veltroni, who was alerted at 3.30am and arrived at the museum at 4am, said that every effort would be made to recover the stolen works of art.

There has been widespread criticism of Italy's neglect of its art heritage, with the museum sector under-staffed and under-resourced. Earlier this year, three paintings by Matisse on exhibition in Rome were damaged by vandals.

There were unconfirmed reports yesterday that security systems at the Museum of Modern Art had not been functioning properly for some

months, and that internal closed circuit television monitors were out of order. In addition, because of renovations under the Veltroni reforms, the museum had workmen coming and going at all times of night, one official said.

Alessandra Pinto, director of the museum, noted that the thieves had ignored other valuable modern art works, including paintings by Monet, Degas and Klimt. The robbers did, however, find time to take £500 in cash from the ticket office, which officials said amounted to the day's takings.

Signora Pinto said the stolen Cézanne had a value of about £20 million, but the Van Goghs were beyond price.

The Museum of Modern Art, constructed in 1911, is one of the centrepieces of the Villa Borghese Park, which the Government is promoting as a tourist and cultural attraction. The museum contains about 5,000 works of contemporary art, most of them Italian. Signor Veltroni said the robberies amounted to a "grave loss to the world of art," and Italy's museums would be re-examining their security arrangements.



Bosnians claim Karadzic is hiding in monastery

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

WAR crimes fugitive Radovan Karadzic could be hiding in an Orthodox monastery across the border from his Montenegro hometown of Niksic where his 74-year-old mother is in hospital. Bosnian intelligence sources said.

The reports regarding his whereabouts come amid a new campaign to clear his name, led by his wife Lijana and brother Luka. They, with help from the Serbian diaspora in Germany, France and America, have set up an "international committee for the truth about Radovan Karadzic", designed to counter what Luka described this week as "foreign lies".


The monastery hideaway is a more credible refuge than previous locations. The Herzegovina area of Bosnia, west of Niksic, is a stronghold of Serb hardliners who would also enable him to dash across the border to visit his mother Jovanka, suffering from a heart complaint. Dr Karadzic, the eldest of four brothers, is the favourite of the matriarch of the clan.

The Nato-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia said this week that it had no new intelligence on Dr Karadzic. "There are rumours flying around but we have no sightings," Major Peter Clarke said.

Dr Karadzic's son, Sasa, less keen than his uncle to put his father in the spotlight, denied there was a media campaign. "It has all been invented," he said.

The Nato force, meanwhile, said it was more concerned about the situation in Kosovo, and was closely monitoring the Bosnia-Montenegro border for possible arms deliveries to the Kosovars.

Relations between a restive Montenegro and Belgrade worsened after Tuesday's appointment of Momir Bulatovic as premier of Federal Yugoslavia.



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Pride of Pacific battle found

Finder of Titanic locates another famous wreck

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE wreck of the American carrier USS Yorktown, sunk 56 years ago during the decisive Battle of Midway, has been found in waters three miles deep by an expedition led by Robert Ballard, the oceanographer who discovered the Titanic 13 years ago. "We have the bridge in sight," the eagerly awaited message flashed from far out in the Pacific to headquarters of the National Geographic Society in Washington yesterday. Bill Surgi, a Yorktown survivor, was the first to identify the wreck, recognising its gun emplacements as video images were transmitted by robot cameras from the wreck to the mother ship on the surface.



Robert Ballard is known as the Indiana Jones of the deep

In 1942 America lost a great warrior and today we've reclaimed her," said Dr Ballard, summing up his latest triumph of marine exploration. His life-long exploits have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of the deep. No one had gone in search of the Yorktown and the four Japanese carriers lost in the battle because they lay at a depth of 16,650 feet. For that reason, Dr Ballard found it gratifying to have found one of them at last, operating a remote-controlled unmanned robot vehicle and a smaller robot from the US Navy's support ship, Laney Chouest. For the next couple of days, the expedition will continue to survey and photograph the Yorktown. Then, in the time left before the expedition ends on May 31, they will go in search of the Japanese carriers which have so far not been

detected in the Midway graveyard, about 1,250 miles west-northwest of Honolulu. Tokyo's Imperial Navy dominated the Pacific after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbour in Hawaii had crippled much of the US Pacific fleet at anchor. There remained the matter of Midway, a dot of two square miles that was the last US outpost between Japan and Hawaii. Admiral Gombei Yamamoto commanded the largest Japanese naval task force ever assembled, more than 200 ships, and set off for the final and decisive victory. What he did not know was that after months of listening to Japanese radio signals an American intelligence officer, Joseph Rochefort, had cracked the Japanese military code and could predict the navy's movements. The American commander, Admiral Chester Nimitz, though outnumbered, had the element of surprise. In three days of fierce fighting, Japanese losses included a heavy cruiser and 330 aircraft, most of which went down on the four carriers. The Americans lost 150 aircraft and one carrier, the Yorktown.

The carrier weighed 19,800 tonnes and carried 75 aircraft. During the battle, it was seriously damaged by Japanese bombers and, already listing heavily to starboard, sank after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. There were 2,770 survivors. The loss was a heavy blow, but the American fleet had achieved a victory that turned the tide of war. It was the same year as two other epic turning



Pilots and crew aboard the carrier Yorktown walk cautiously over the sloping deck of the wrecked vessel listing heavily to starboard in the Battle of Midway. It finally sank after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine



points against the Axis powers, the battles of Stalingrad and El Alamein. Dr Ballard launched his expedition to find the rusting behemoths on May 1. It is his sixth collaboration with National Geographic and the US Navy in search of lost ships. Their first find was the Titanic in September 1985, but the Midway ships lie nearly a mile deeper. The unmanned robots are the most advanced technology

for deep-sea exploration. While clarifying historic facts about the Battle of Midway, they are also testing technology that can be put to future use in rescuing disabled submarines and exploring Earth's last frontier, its oceans. No humans have ventured to the ocean floor during the expedition. The robots are controlled from the mother ship where video and still photographs are received;

these will be released early next month. Although the Yorktown will be disturbed and nothing will be taken from it, American law forbids interfering with any navy wreck. The exact location of the ships has not been revealed. Tokyo has also requested that no footage be taken of any human remains on its four sunken carriers, the Akagi,

Kaga, Soryu and Hiryu. A crew member from the Kaga, Haruo Yoshino, has accompanied the expedition to share memories of the battle with US survivors for a documentary. As a specialist in deep-ocean archaeology, Dr Ballard has led or taken part in more than 100 expeditions. Although best-known for Titanic, he also discovered the German battleship Bismarck.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bonn stops Sellafield nuclear convoys

Bonn: Angela Merkel, the German Environment Minister, halted German nuclear waste shipments to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria yesterday because of radiation leaks in past convoys, the ministry said. An official said there would be no new convoys until the reason for the leaks was known. Radiation levels for convoys to Sellafield had been found at between 10 and 20 becquerels per square centimetre; the norm is 4. A similar measure was announced recently affecting waste bound for La Hague in France. The ministry had said earlier that there had been 11 cases of excess radioactivity in German waste convoys last year in a total of 55 convoys. The contamination had reached 13,000 becquerels per square centimetre in some convoys for La Hague. (AFP)

'Sex assaults' at US border

Mexico City: Migrants crossing Mexico's border with the United States illegally are often beaten, starved, denied medical attention or sexually assaulted by US Border Patrol guards, Amnesty International said here. The London-based human rights group said that although conditions on the 2,000-mile frontier had improved since 1994, violations persisted. Drawn by better wages and higher standard of living, tens of thousands of Mexicans cross the border unlawfully every year. (Reuters)

Boney's \$9,000 hair cut

New York: A lock of hair, believed to have been taken from Napoleon Bonaparte during his exile on the island of Elba, was sold for \$9,200 (£5,700) at Christie's. The framed lock of hair inside a blue velvet case was bought by a private collector. It was one of 300 items of Napoleonic that sold for a total of \$1.2 million. (AP)



'Dirty war' unit disbanded

Bogotá: Colombia has disbanded a shadowy military intelligence unit accused of organising right-wing death squads and waging a "dirty war" against suspected left-wing sympathisers. The surprise move, announced by General Manuel José Bonett, the armed forces chief, came amid a growing chorus of criticism of the so-called 20th Brigade from US officials and international human rights groups. (Reuters)

Everest's growth tracked

Kathmandu: Wally Berg, a US mountain climber, installed a Global Positioning System on the summit of Mt Everest to measure the growth of the world's highest mountain. It will measure the speed at which India is sliding under Tibet, raising the 28,029ft mountain roughly by one inch every year. Mr Berg was among 19 climbers who scaled the summit, including the first Iranian team. (AP)

Voters draw a blank

Asunción: Paraguay's Senate will give a seat to the obscure Blanco party after thousands of voters wishing to cast a blank vote apparently voted for it by mistake in the May 10 elections. The ruling Colorado Party and the opposition Democratic Alliance said the Partido Blanco (White Party) owed most of its 35,000 votes to confusion. In Spanish, a blank vote is a voto en blanco - a "white vote". (Reuters)

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Why a doctor should tell you everything

The consultation with an NHS doctor in which a patient is told that he or she has cancer lasts an average of 15 minutes. Only five minutes longer than the average consultation in a surgery, the extra five minutes seems rather a short time to deal with all the implications of possible surgery, radiotherapy, and in a number of cases, a diagnosis that may have a fatal outcome.



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on the need for doctors to be frank; worm-infested royals; hair's secrets; and selenium

It is little wonder then that the General Medical Council (GMC) has ordained that doctors should talk more to their patients, and that there should be a return to the time when we were as interested in their personalities as in the science of their diseases. There is a well accepted school of thought which suggests that alternative and complementary practitioners owe much of their popularity to their readiness to talk to patients.

The occasional patient misunderstands the diagnostic value of the talk and may see it as idle chatter, or possibly an intrusion into private matters. When I send my patients to consultant colleagues who are notoriously monosyllabic, I warn them that the doctor may well have missed out on instructions in how to conduct a medical interview. The almost invariable reply is that the patient is interested in the specialist's skill and not his or her bedside manner.

The GMC, however, is right to expect that doctors should take time to talk to their patients and that all explanations should be as full, honest

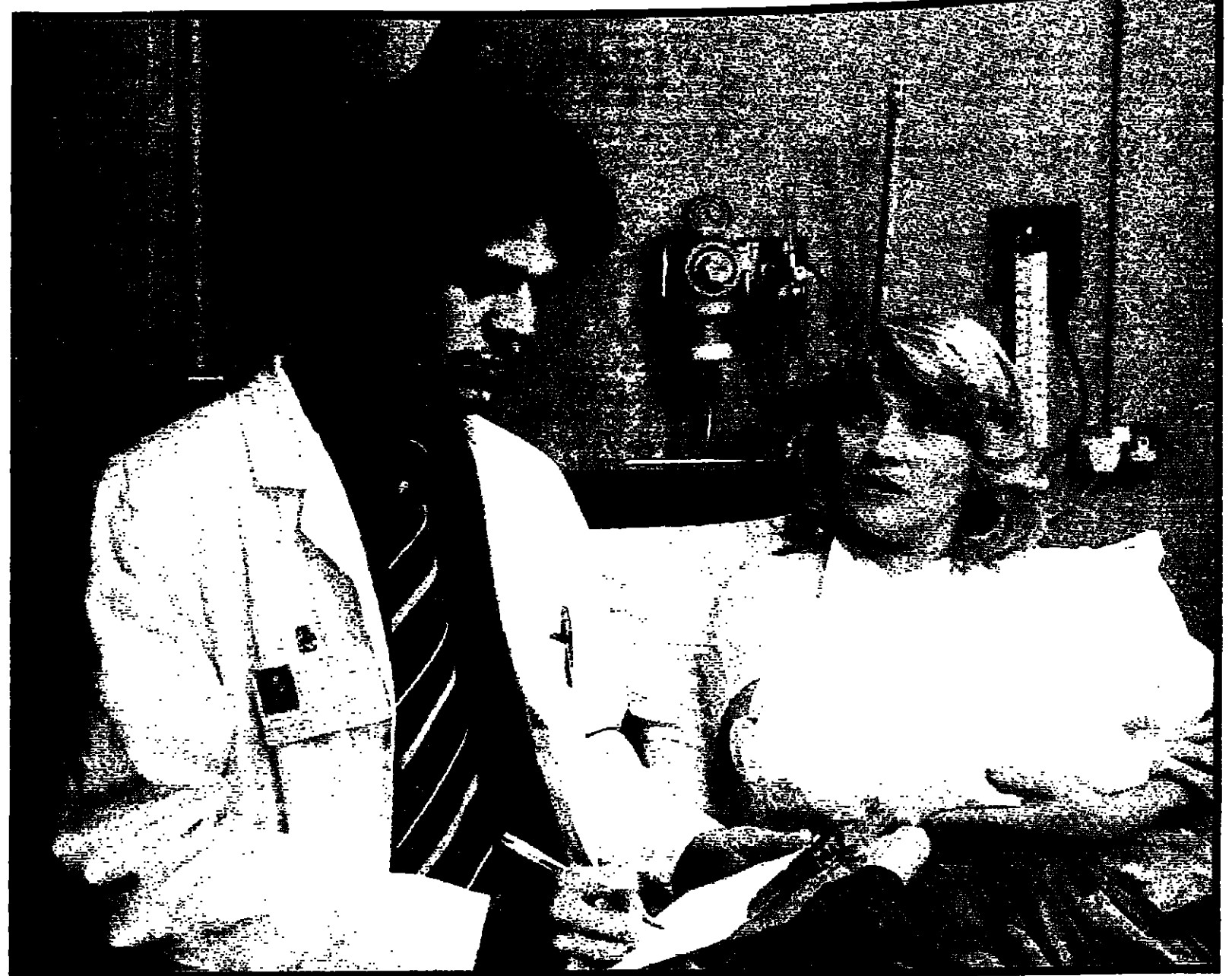
and straightforward as possible. Although patients may say that they are indifferent to bedside manners, experience shows that they are not and will, in particular, resent a taciturn or even brusque approach if anything goes wrong. Conversely, they like the old-style demeanour: one patient, for instance, deserts the ultra high-tech medicine of

her homeland to have her babies in Britain because she likes the friendliness and frankness of her London obstetrician.

The GMC has not, of course, insisted that all patients should always be told all the unvarnished facts about their condition. A spokeswoman said yesterday: "Patients are not all the same; they are individuals, and each case has to be considered separately."

The GMC has issued guidelines, not rules, which doctors will be expected to be able to interpret as a result of their training and experience. It is therefore their judgment that is important and which will be questioned if there is a serious complaint. Doctors must be prepared to explain later if they have done or said anything which might at first sight appear untoward."

Many doctors have always been as open as possible but the way in which news, particularly bad news, is imparted has to be compatible with the patient's psyche and background. The overwhelming majority of patients are grateful for a full and frank discussion, however bad the news, and are entitled to the truth. Patients, however, must realise that doctors cannot foretell the future; that is the role of the fairground palmist. Doctors rarely, for instance, give a definite date for survival despite the number of patients' stories which start: "My doctor gave me only six months to



The GMC is encouraging doctors to return to the time when they were as interested in patients' personalities as in the science of their diseases

live..." When life expectancy is discussed, an average survival time may be mentioned but patients are reminded that no two cases run the same course and the estimate may be wildly out, and even the diagnosis may be mistaken. A year or two ago a patient of mine was diagnosed as having cancer of the pancreas

which had spread to the rest of the upper abdomen. The specialist suggested that the scan was such that he thought the patient would be lucky to survive a month.

The patient was a remarkably brave man with an inquiring mind and therefore asked penetrating questions. I answered his queries as truth-

fully as I was able to but didn't mention a prognosis of four weeks. He finally said: "I'm just about to go home. I would like you to telephone my wife and son so that they are spared the emotion of my telling them the news. And now I want you to tell me whether I should start drinking my good claret, my

very best claret, or the claret I've put on one side to celebrate my fortieth wedding anniversary."

I suggested that he better start drinking his best claret as fast as possible. The next day he was admitted to hospital where further investigations showed that the initial diagnosis was wrong. He had a blood

clot which was extending from a leaking spleen and this had mimicked the appearance of a tumour. The spleen was removed and he is now fit. Likewise, in my experience there have been three patients with apparently terminal, inoperable tumours (correctly diagnosed) who have spontaneously recovered.

An element of hope

The flour in the loaf on your table is now more likely to have been milled from wheat grown in Britain. In the past we imported much of our wheat from Canada but now Britain is a net exporter rather than an importer of it. Bread, too, is not eaten in the same quantities: in the past 20 years sales have dropped by 25 per cent. Men no longer go to work with sandwiches in a box, and when they and their wives return home in the evening something more exotic than bread is used to satiate any hunger. The change in consumption of bread has had the unexpected effect of reducing the amount of selenium in our diet. Selenium is an essential trace element which is found in varying quantities in the soil. Regional variations are reflected in the amount of selenium in the plants, including cereal crops, which grow in it. The changes in the selenium content of wheat and its effect on the diet is not the only reason why selenium intake is falling. Modern farming methods wash selenium out of the soil so that even the animals that graze our pastures, and end up on our dinner plates, have lower concentrations of the element than they did 20 years ago. The average intake of selenium in the standard British diet has fallen by 50 per cent in the past two years and is now less than a third of that taken by the average American.

'Modern farming washes selenium out of the soil'

Selenium is an antioxidant and is a component of a number of enzyme systems in the body. The antioxidants protect human cells from oxidative damage. Selenium is also an essential part of the process by which

abnormal cells, including potentially malignant cells, perform apoptosis, thereby destroying themselves. Selenium, too, is thought to improve the immune system and has a detoxifying role by neutralising various cancer-forming chemicals.

Too little selenium has been blamed for an increased incidence of cardiovascular disease, and for the large number of various cancers found in people who live in areas where selenium levels in the soil are low. Conversely, people who live in parts of Norfolk, for instance, where selenium levels are high and they continue to eat their homegrown vegetables, rather than buying them from the local supermarket, have low levels of both malignant disease and coronary disorders.

A study has been set up involving 52,000 people from Britain, the United States, Holland, Belgium, Finland, Sweden and Denmark to ascertain whether taking supplements of selenium protects against cancer.

The projected study will cost £20 million but a preliminary double blind trial which involved 1,312 patients has shown remarkable results.

The research team led by Dr Larry Clark of the University of Arizona, has published its findings in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The experiment showed that among those who took 200 micrograms of selenium daily there was a near 50 per cent reduction in the likelihood of malignant disease, and a 40 per cent fall in the chance of developing cancers of any type.

A Sun King and his diet of worms

A PROFESSOR of parasitology at Reims University, France, *Colin Boucher*, has been sifting the soil near the remnants of the latrines at Marly-le-Roi. The château itself, a residence of Louis XIV, the Sun King, was destroyed by the revolutionary mob. The *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) reports that latrines used by the royal servants, and lesser mortals, have shown a difference between the parasites in the guts of the king and the nobility, and those of their minions. The guts of the court were a haven for several parasites. The regal faecal remains revealed evidence of round worms as well as *Trichinella*, one of the worms which has a predilection for pigs, in particular the wild boar, as well as tapeworms. The *BMJ* suggests that the reason why the king suffered, and his subjects did not, was that the nobility had a love of undercooked, grilled meat, and the others had their meat boiled. Even if Louis's boar steaks were better cooked, his life probably would not have been longer. He died at 77, a great age in 1715. The court, too, suffered from liver fluke, *Fasciola hepatica*, spread by contaminated watercress and dandelions.

Every hair tells a story

THE coats of some of the horses that will appear in next month's Trooping the Colour owe part of their splendour to swimming in the Channel off the Sussex coast. Salt-water bathing before a big parade is a well-established cavalryman's trick to ensure that, after grooming, the horses will gleam as brightly as the brasses, boots and cuirasses of their riders.



Hair holds medical secrets

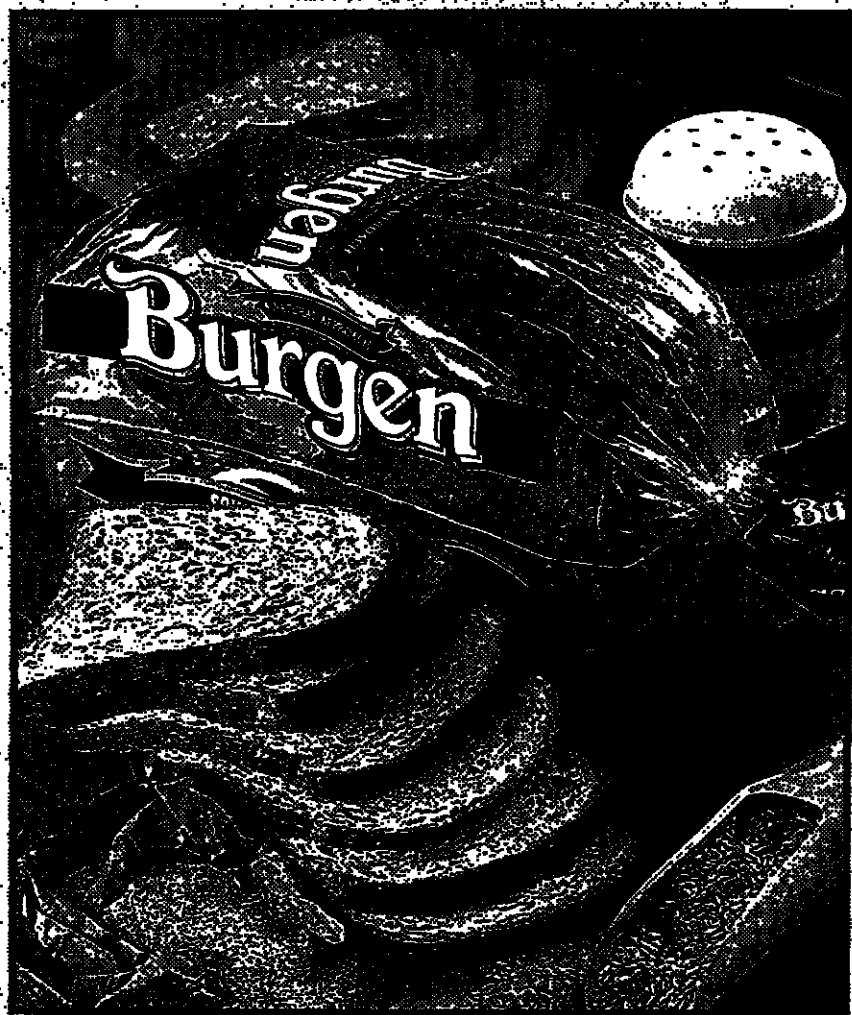
Cleaning hair is not only a problem for the Household Cavalry. Dirty hair can interfere with scientific analysis, an accepted method of detecting heavy metals in the human body. Through studying hair it is possible to identify such chemicals as arsenic, so popular among Victorians bent on committing murder. Nowadays it can indicate illicit drug-taking, for the way in which a hair grows is reflected in its shaft and this will betray any drug use. In the *British Medical Journal* Dr R.S. Pereira has reviewed a technique by which a substance known as trans-thyretin, from the inside of the hair, can be used for identification purposes. It can also provide a source of other medical information about a person.

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Beware the dangers of baby burnout



The karate kid: do children really need more activity after a school-filled, energy-sapping day?

Karate, violin, drama: the mere thought of after-school 'fun' makes India Knight tired

A friend's five-year-old son was recently invited to a classmate's birthday party. Clowns and sausages? Not exactly. Come June, the birthday boy will be celebrating in a marquee. And while he and his friends all live in London, the marquee will be sited in the country, two hours' drive away. And not just anywhere in the country, but in the (fired) grounds of a complete stranger's posh estate. A bus will ferry the children from South London to deepest Gloucestershire and back again. The family involved are not rich: they "simply" thought such a party would be "fun".

When I said to my friend "How perfectly grotesque, you can't possibly go and, besides, do you really want to give up your Saturday?" there was a silence. "I know," she said, miserably. "But Jack knows Horace from pottery, and they see each other at Suzuki violin, and the mother got us into an overbooked Totterize class — and I will be embarrassed into going."

Such carefree disregard for one's own social life is on the increase, as *The London Parents' Guide* magazine confirms with its helpful directory of child-focused activities. I've often felt slightly incompetent, because I refuse to allow my children to come into contact with the kind of children whose parents are keen on infantile "networking" and b) because I won't let them take part in an ever-increasing range of post-school activities designed for today's groovy

something educational on Sundays, like the Science Museum. Do they enjoy it all? [Long pause.] They don't not enjoy it."

But guilt does not explain the hordes of activity-friendly, stay-at-home mothers I come across. I have a grudging admiration for these human dynamos, for whom every weekday passes in a whirl of toddler dance classes, baby painting, trips to the city farm, trampolining, and dunk-your-baby-and-see-if-

sarily anything to shout about either, but I do feel there ought to be a happy medium between having a slug for a mother and having a Nineties version of an annoyingly eager Superwoman, loudly but silently proclaiming her superior devotion to her children with every new activity.

My opinion of such women is that they might benefit from acquiring a hobby: there is no need for even the most devoted parent to subordinate herself in this way. When a child goes into ecstasies of curiosity over a snail in the garden or a dragon in a book, I don't see the need for daily boring wet treks through the muddy park. Also, there is something distasteful about children feeling that it is their parents' responsibility to keep them entertained with an ever-increasing range of thrillorama activities.

Still, Superwoman and Guilty Working Mum pale into insignificance compared with the Ambitious Mother. I will never forget the first "hothoused" child I met, a gormless-looking but seemingly prodigiously brainy infant with a winning way with flashcards. At the time, my son wouldn't have recognised a letter, let alone a word, if it had bitten him on the bottom. Unlike Infant Genius, however, he was socially competent, had many friends and liked running about giggling.

The Nineties obsession with forcing small children — babies, even — to perform intellectual feats is repellent and counter-productive since, in my not inconsiderable experience, hothoused children inevitably become social cripples. Certainly, they tend to find school unduly stressful. Of course, by the time they are of school age they have already been introduced to a veritable maelstrom of post-prep activities.

The Ambitious Mother is the chief culprit in all this: she manages to make piano lessons sound like child abuse. She asks to see a list of parents' names before signing up for playgroup. She frets about getting her child into the "right" nursery school, ie one containing potentially useful future contacts. I once had one of my eldest son's friends to tea: they were joined by the next-door neighbour's daughter, aged 7 and adorable. When Ambitious Mother came for her son, she asked this girl where she went to school. The local rough primary, was the answer. This woman looked at me and said "Gosh, aren't you liberal?" Such women don't actually enjoy chattering their children from dance to Latin to speech and drama, but feel that somehow their offspring will benefit socially.

I'd have no objections to my boys learning to play the piano, say, or to extra swimming lessons, in the summer. Both have plenty of friends whose after-school lives are frenzied with activity, and my attitude has always been to wait until they ask if they, too, can go to, say, guided tours of art galleries. It may be that they've inherited their mothers' lethargy, but I'm still waiting.

What's wrong with Lego, Tin-Tin or riding a trike?

he-bobs-up swimming classes: these mothers' very existence is defined by their children to a psychologically fascinating degree. My own offspring are sadly bereft of such excitements: a recent trip to the Museum of Childhood was heralded for days in advance with my telling them that this outing was a Very Special Treat indeed.

My usual methods of entertaining my children consist of me lying in bed, with the bed becoming a pirate ship, a cruel mountain peak (with duvet hills) and so on. I realise this supine approach isn't neces-

Championing the cause of women behaving badly

Elizabeth Wurtzel, self-styled icon of the slack generation, arrived in London this week, trailing jet streams of controversy behind her. This time she is not only "young and depressed", the subtitle of her first book *Prozac Nation*; she is angry. Her new work, *Bitch*, is a long, polemical history of manipulative female behaviour, a celebration of difficult women.

Elizabeth Wurtzel's new book supports the "bitch philosophy" — that women should do what they want. Jason Cowley reports

she be serious? Maureen Freely, the writer and feminist, believes she is, describing her manifesto as courageous, if limited. "Until you're 25, this is a very good philosophy. After that you start to notice there is more to life. It's true that we enjoy watching other people dare to live beyond the boundaries of life, as Wurtzel has done, and I think many women have secret desires about behaving badly. She dares to be a feminist without being politically correct. Sometimes you have to look at the dark side to embrace what the problem is." Wurtzel, 30, has certainly

embraced the dark side. *Prozac Nation* told of her battles with depression and drug abuse, of her suicide attempt and chaotic sexuality and of the misery of a Manhattan childhood marred by her parents' messy divorce. Now a recovering drug addict, she wrote *Bitch* while strung out on speed and heroin. It shows there is wild repetition and contradiction. Her erratic, energetic prose, as one American critic wrote, "reads like a long, messy e-mail from an insomniac on a manic high". She has a weakness for overstatement and generalisation. Men, she writes, are driven only by the urge to be stronger, richer and "to lay as many babes as possible". But you can only admire her magnificent energy, if not her self-savouring confessional style.

Melissa Bernstein, feminist and essayist, agrees with Wurtzel that independence and strength are the "new storylines for women. But historically, the problem for women has been forces, both coercive and subtle. Yes, we all answer to ourselves. The secular age has replaced religion with autonomy. But in this complicated life, we all need negotiation and interdependence to survive. I have no problem with the theory but I don't like lessons in selfishness."

Wurtzel is eager to reappropriate the word "bitch" from pejorative usage. She admires outsiders and iconoclasts, and celebrates the "bitch" in history such as like the biblical Delilah. Selflessness, submissiveness, fulfilling traditional feminine roles will bring only frustration and failure. "Frankly," she writes, "I have a tough time feeling that feminism has done a damn bit of good if I can't be the way I want and have the world accommodate it on some level."

Natasha Walter, author of *The New Feminism*, admires the swagger of Wurtzel's style, but feels there are more important struggles to be won: on women's poverty, powerlessness and political and social inequality. "When young girls say, 'I'll do what I want', it makes a good starting point for feminism," she says. "It shows they have the confidence of boys of the same age. Just to be able to say this shows what a long way women have come. But it is just a starting point and we need to use this attitude to create change." The broadcaster and journalist Joan Bakewell is more

trenchant. "This philosophy of the *Bitch* is blindingly selfish, saying go for it, ignore everyone else and treat your own interest as the most important in the world. Society is dependent on people honouring contracts between each other and having trust in one another. This philosophy is a recipe for social chaos and if she wants to follow it, then good luck to her. I expect she'll have a miserable life."

Bakewell's remark is right. Over lunch, Wurtzel told me that she was indeed miserable. Her twentys were, in effect, a chain of successes: a staff job on *The New Yorker* magazine, a bestselling book that defined the spirit of the age, fame, wealth. "I have had so much good fortune, and everything is so glorious, yet there's this shadow hanging over me. I just can't keep hold of this good feeling."

When she began *Bitch*, she was determined to kill herself. "My perfect attorney boyfriend had turned out not to be perfect. I was a junkie. I



Natasha Walter: a good start was on my own in Florida and I thought I was just, like, going to do drugs to death." Yet writing the book lifted her spirits: "I realised the world is a work in progress and I wanted to be part of it." In conversation, Wurtzel concedes that her argument



In the wake of *Prozac Nation*'s success, Elizabeth Wurtzel is courting literary controversy with her latest book, *Bitch*

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How do you spend your child benefit?

Frank Field wants support for children to be universal - but taxed

To many people, it seems absurd that at a time when government spending is constrained by both the internationalisation of capital markets and the desire of taxpayers to hang on to a good portion of their own money, money is being spent on benefits for the most affluent in the land. Especially when it is hardly noticed. One journalist joked that her weekly child benefit went on a bottle of Sainsbury's champagne: hardly the priority for public spending, surely?

There is a powerful case that changes to society and the economy over the past two or three decades - not least the rise of income inequality - have weakened the case for universal provision. Universalism, designed for a more egalitarian world, has been stretched out of shape by the combined forces of Thatcherism, the skills revolution, labour market change and the recasting of gender relations. So the argument runs.

What, then, is the case for universality? There can be no doubt that this Government sees one. I want to look at child benefit, in part because it is the closest thing we have to a universal benefit and also because the Chancellor, while raising it, has also said he will be looking at the possibility of taxing it.

Universal need not mean ration-book provision

It seems a bit rough that a young couple struggling to make ends meet should pay more tax because the lawyer and stockbroker up the road decide to have children. Ultimately the debate around child benefit boils down to the way society views children. On the one hand, they can be seen as a choice taken by some couples and not by others. Or children can be seen as having a value to others too, as future taxpayers and workers. I may not have children; but I need someone to have them if my pension is to be paid.

Talking about children in this way sounds ugly, as if they are being commodified into ciphers of future GDP. But in fact it is the other view which is the real commodification - the view which sees children as simply a lifestyle choice on the part of parents, for which no one else has any responsibility. My choice to buy a Rover rather than a Lada would impose no duties on the Lada owner; my decision to have children would impose duties on those without children.

So the case for redistribution from the childless to those with children remains, but the rise in income inequality might suggest that the precise level of support can vary, to take account of different financial circumstances. We might want child benefit for all, but child benefit which is worth more to those on low incomes. Dare I say it? A Third Way. This is the case for making child benefit more generous, but then taxing it. Today, universal does not necessarily mean standardised, ration-book provision.

There is also an argument about the politics of universal benefits. First, people don't

want to pay any more tax than they have to and want resources to be directed to those in real need. Secondly, people will only be prepared to pay taxes if they know they are getting something back. It is easy to mock the argument that middle-class people somehow feel more part of the welfare system as a result of their bottles of Sainsbury's champagne. And I am sure the argument is stronger when it comes to schools and hospitals. But I am convinced benefits play a part too.

We don't all have to receive the same benefits or services. To keep everybody in the state system, we may need to be more flexible, given the rise in expectations among the better-off. We might have to offer an à la carte rather than a fixed-price menu to make sure we all eat in the same restaurant.

But it is simple human nature to want something for our money. Altruism is too delicate a thread on which to hang a welfare system. In the United States, it is standard practice to attack spending on "welfare" - means-tested benefits for the very poorest - while social security, which provides income and health care in retirement for all, is the

"third rail" of American politics: touch it and you get fried. But universalism is not a state monopoly. The State may have a responsibility to offer support to all children; equally it is the responsibility of all parents to support and

their own children: that is just as universal. In most cases this happens naturally, especially where the parents are living together in a loving relationship. Even here, mistakes are made. As worthy a man as Sabine Baring Gould - who wrote *Onward Christian Soldiers* and fathered 16 children - made mistakes. At one party, a girl approached him. "What a charming little girl," he exclaimed. "And whose daughter are you?" The child burst into tears and said: "Yours, Papa!"

We are all flawed, all human. But the acceleration of family breakdown has meant that the responsibility to provide care has often been eroded. The Child Support Agency, designed to underpin this universal duty, has been far, far from fulfilling the hopes pinned on it. There are no easy solutions here. Because this area is heavily mined with powerful emotions, we have to advance carefully.

It seems odd to me that the Government can be so adept at collecting income tax and national insurance, and so awful at collecting child support. This is because the CSA formula is so complex. The ideal of finely calibrated treatment is laudable; in practice it has proved so unwieldy and open to abuse that fairness has been lost in the failure to collect. The system has punished the honest and allowed the tricksters off the hook: hardly the fairest outcome.

This is an edited extract from the *Minister for Welfare Reform's Political Lecture*, given on Tuesday evening.



"BLAIR SHOULD BE PLEASED... HE LIKES EARLY RELEASE FOR MURDERERS AT THE MOMENT."

Our dark Continent

Europe needs a new history, but it cannot exclude nightmarish visions we would rather forget, says Mark Mazower

In these past few years there has been much talk of Europe and European civilisation, of anti-Europe and so on. But if we stop to analyse a little more closely what is meant by 'Europe', we become aware of the extreme confusion which reigns in the minds of those who talk about it. Not my words but those of the Italian historian Federico Chabod, writing in 1943. Yet they seem to fit our times even better than his: in this week alone Chancellor Kohl is waxing lyrical about European unification, while William Hague has gone to Paris to warn in no uncertain terms against the same prospect.

It must be admitted at the outset that whether Europe actually has a history in any conventional sense of the word is open to doubt. Certainly most historians do not seem to believe it does. Their focus is either much narrower or much broader than Europe itself. This is not surprising when we bear in mind that the writing and practice of professional history has been intimately bound up with the rise of nationalism and the nation-state. Historians, in Eric Hobsbawm's vivid phrase, have been drug dealers to the addicts of national self-affirmation. Even today, historians of France and Britain, to take only the most egregious offenders, show little interest in anything outside their national borders.

Those few historians with a wider view, such as Hobsbawm, tend to see Europe in terms of overarching theories of history such as Marxism. They tell the story of the rise of the market, and the struggle between communism and capitalism. Europe becomes an illustration of global processes as much as an object of study in its own right. Some people would even say that today, all history is world history. If they are right, history is going to become very impersonal and dull, for there will be less room for the vignettes and details which bring it to life.

One place where an effort to conceive of European history as a whole can be found is among the works commissioned by Brussels. The European Commission finances the publication of worthy tomes, proving, with the assistance of endless footnotes, that European unity is not only our future but our past. The trouble is that these books are not simply unreadable - they are usually written by committees carefully

selected to weed out national bias - but more importantly, they paint a completely distorted picture of Europe's past, smoothing over diversity and dissension. The spotlight rests on France and Germany, while Poland and the Balkans rate barely a mention. European identity is defined in terms of Christianity, but it is a very curious kind of Christianity which does not really accept Orthodoxy, let alone Judaism and Islam. As propaganda they are unimpressive; as efforts to find the truth, they are virtually worthless.

Some works on European history stand the test of time, yet it seems that a common reaction to the bloody struggles of this century has been simply to deny their interethnic character. One side is made to stand for the true Europe - the "European Europe" if you will, in precisely the sense employed in the term "European Community", while the others are written off as usurpers or barbarians. But if we face the fact that liberal democracy failed in one country after another after 1918, and if we admit that communism and fascism also formed part of the Continent's political heritage and emerged from its culture, then it is hard to deny that what has shaped Europe in this century is not a gradual convergence of thought and feeling but, on the contrary, a series of violent clashes between antagonistic new orders. If we search for Europe as what Chabod called "an historic and moral individuality", we will find that for much of this century it did not exist.

In short, Europe's history since 1918 can be nothing other than the history of Europe's various dreams and visions of itself. What one cannot do, if one is serious, is to exclude regimes from history's mainstream on the grounds of their barbarism or the insanity of their rulers. History is not a kind of club from which regimes may be blackballed for bad behaviour. The fact is that millions of Germans supported Hitler, and that by 1940, millions of other Europeans had

come to regard the Nazi new order as the most likely way to restore stability to the Continent after the failure of Versailles. We in Britain like to think we stood outside these events, and it is true that by escaping enemy occupation, we avoided what was perhaps the single most important, traumatic and formative political experience of the rest of the Continent. Nevertheless, we have less ground for complacency than we like to believe. Only the outbreak of war in 1939 prevented the head of Scotland Yard from attending a seminar in Munich on modern policing methods; he had been due to visit Dachau and to hear the head of the Gestapo lecture on new techniques of crime prevention. Nazi racism, too, was part of a much broader European discourse about racial superiority and population decline in which Britain participated, both in the Empire and at home.

Our understanding of European history has been distorted by the selective forgetting and reshaping of the past which took place during the Cold War. For example, the greatest single forced population movement of the century - the expulsion of more than 10 million Germans from central and eastern Europe after 1945 - is largely unknown today. The reason is clear: the subject was taboo in Germany and uncomfortable almost everywhere else. Yet it is impossible to gauge the differences between Hitler's Germany and Helmut Kohl's on the basis of such ignorance. German expansionism between 1870 and 1945 was motivated by a dream of bringing together all Germans in a single country. This has now happened, though scarcely in the way Hitler envisaged. As the century ends, it is time to move beyond the myths that have comforted us through the postwar decades.

If we can look our past in the face, what has it to tell us about the future? First, I think, that the European Union is in large measure the fruit of attempts to tackle a problem that no longer exists. The determination to have unity at all costs stems from a deep-seated panic. At the heart of the

late-20th century European project are memories of Franco-German rivalry and the wars this led to. Yet nation-states have changed their spots since 1945 and the danger of war, or at least of this kind of war, has subsided. Ironically, where war is now virtually impossible to conceive - in Western Europe - the EU pushes ahead with plans for ever-closer union; where it is more likely - in the Balkans - it can do little to affect the course of events. Having laid claim to the title of Europe, the EU now feels impelled to embrace enlargement, bringing it - as now with Cyprus and Poland - to zones of international tension. Better to have been more honest and to have confessed that the EU was really misnamed: it represented an arrangement of economic convenience among a small group of prosperous West European states. But the time for such honesty has passed.

Secondly, the nation-state is changing but not withering away. Economically, it is losing power to global forces and needs the EU because modern capitalism is too strong for it. Politically, however, it remains the focus of the allegiance and loyalty of the overwhelming majority of people in Europe. Thus the EU needs the nation-state, too.

If Chancellor Kohl is haunted by historical fears which have lost their basis in reality, William Hague's fears for the future are equally groundless. Economic and monetary union (EMU) may be another step along the road to a European superstate, but it is far more likely that Europe's political future will take the form of some continued intermeshing of national and supranational institutions, while EMU itself could well end up looking rather like the old 19th-century gold standard, another fixed exchange rate system in which sovereign nation-states existed quite comfortably for decades. Everything depends on whether one sees history as a story of inevitable victories and forward marches, or a series of close shaves and unexpected twists. This century's forward marches have all eventually ground to a halt; the unexpected invariably wins out.

The author's latest book, *The Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, is published next month by Allen Lane/The Penguin Press.

Allergic to life? Just relax

Magnus Linklater on why our cells are overreacting all over

Weather forecasts these days are for hypochondriacs as well as depressives. The pollen count is up, so it's bad news for hay fever victims. The sun is out, so we're at risk of skin cancer. Hardly surprising that the nation seems to be developing a collective allergy. For me, the most stunning medical statistic of the week is that 40 per cent of our schoolchildren now suffer from allergies of one sort or another. By the year 2019, we are told, one in four adults will be a martyr to asthma, hay fever or eczema.

How pathetic, was my immediate reaction. We wipe out the big killers such as typhoid and diphtheria, now all we have to complain about are a few sniffles and skin rashes. What a nation of wimps! All right, I withdraw that remark. As a lifetime sufferer myself, I know what misery hay fever can be: as an asthmatic I cannot move far without my inhaler; afflicted by eczema as a child (when the only treatment was spreading the skin with tar), I take real allergies as seriously as anyone.

I am less convinced by the statistics. Just as crime figures are always open to misinterpretation, so is an allergy epidemic. A rise in reported crime may reflect a better detection rate, or a different way of categorising it. An increase in allergies may indicate more efficient diagnosis, or greater awareness, or just that allergies are the current medical vogue, like herpes used to be. So I take the latest figures with a pinch of non-allergy-inducing salt. However, has to accept that the trend is upwards, and that the explanation is hard to pin down.

The most convincing evidence emerges from a massive survey carried out over a five-year period in East Germany, where 2,000 children aged between nine and 11 were tested for allergies before and after reunification with West Germany. The number suffering from hay fever rose from one in 50 in 1991 to one in 20 in 1996. Eczema increased from 19 per cent to 27 per cent. Researchers found that the children reacted to the trappings of modern life such as wall-to-wall carpets, centrally heated houses, pets and processed foods. East Germans, it seemed, were allergic to capitalism.

But it is a little more complex than that. As a one-man survey myself, everything I have experienced flies directly in the face of the East German results. I grew up in a large, draughty house with no central heating, where wall-to-wall carpeting was an unheard-of luxury and most processed foods were unavailable. I spent, nevertheless, a childhood afflicted by sneezing, inflamed eyes, congested lungs and burning skin. I have since graduated to what might be classified as a West German standard of living, and find that I suffer less, not more. My hay fever has subsided, the asthma is under control, the eczema has gone altogether. My non-scientific explanation is that my body has gradually built up something approaching an immune system, helped by a crude but successful programme of injections in my early twenties which strengthened my resistance to household dust, cats, horses and hay.

There would appear to be no obvious reason why a new generation of allergy sufferers should not similarly develop immunity. It seems, however, that the body's defence systems have more to contend with these days. Recent studies show that there are more pollutants in the air, more chemicals in our food, more pesticides on our fields, more man-made fibres in our clothes. The "mast cells" which patrol our bodies, ever on the lookout for dangerous intruders, thus have their work cut out. As soon as they detect a new and threatening substance, they react - some might say overreact - by sending out their own barrage of chemicals, including histamines, which cause tightening of lung muscles, inflammation of skin, all the characteristic symptoms of the allergy victim. Someone compared them to a tiny landmine lurking just below the skin, ready to rupture and explode as soon as a foreign body approaches.

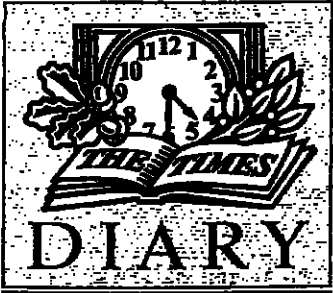
Why they should feel it necessary to do so defeats me - as it defeats many scientists. It is almost as if, deprived of the real work they once had to do, such as fighting off polio or smallpox, our cells have had to invent new scare stories to keep them busy. A recent study in Africa gives some credence to this. It suggests that the original intention of the mast cells was to destroy tropical parasites such as tapeworms. Since Western man no longer has to worry much about tapeworms, the cells have found substitute enemies to take their place. Peanuts, milk, shellfish, nickel, latex, food additives, colouring, all of them have joined a list of potentially dangerous substances. There are doubtless more to come. Perhaps our body systems are beginning to pick up some of our well-known paranoia about modern life. The more we worry about what we eat, drink or breathe, the more, perhaps, those mast cells get nervous too. Maybe if we calmed down a bit, they would get the message and relax a little. It's just a theory.

Lib fems

PADDY ASHDOWN is facing a day in the dock, having apparently ignored legal advice from Cherie Booth. The Liberal Democrat leader sought the views of the Prime Minister's wife in her capacity as a barrister over whether his party's candidate-selection policy contravenes the Sex Discrimination Act. Ashdown has put his authority behind a system called "zipping" for next year's Euro elections, to ensure that half the Lib Dem candidates are women. The policy was endorsed by party feminists but now Graham Elson, the secretary-general of the Liberal Democrats at the time, claims they were misled. Elson had sought advice from Booth and from Lord Lester of Herne Hill, who both apparently said the policy would cause legal problems. But Ashdown went ahead, and now faces a challenge from Elson and cronies. Nick Harvey, MP, the Liberal Democrats' campaign chief, says Elson is bitter: "Graham applied to be a candidate but the panel decided he did not merit selection - and it was nothing to do with gender." Harvey admits the party is treading in "murky" legal waters, but his recollection of Cherie Booth's ad-

vice is rather different: "Cherie is the number one in this field." How charming that the PM's wife holds such influence over Liberal Democrat policy.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is a chocoholic. The Prince confided his sweet tooth during a royal visit to a Jewish old people's home in North London, telling Betsy Harris, trusty minder of the home's



Swiss shop: "I didn't know Mars Bars were kosher. How wonderful!"

Ooh la la BLUE Tories in red-light scandal, as the small prints might describe this French frolic. Tories in Fontainebleau for William Hague's speech were told by his office to stay at the Hotel Sophia. I do not know what kind of establishment it was when Hague was a student in the town, but Tories found it rather racy. Scantily-clad women greeted them, willing to explain the delights of Euro integration - for £20 each. Most Tories fled, but Central Office's Priti Patel, who organised the trip. She says: "It was fine for a quick stopover."

the loyal toast at a recent dinner. As glasses were raised to shouts of "the Queen", he grabbed the microphone: "And sod the Euro."

Frill seeker VALERIE CAMPBELL, Naomi's more beautiful mother, has confided her frustration at being unable to find a regular armrest since the death of the Duke of Northumberland. "I decided I wasn't going to look any more, but that was six months ago and it still hasn't worked," says Ms Campbell, 45. "Men don't seem to go for me."



Unattached: Valerie Campbell

don't know why. I must be the unluckiest person. I might have to wear garters and suspenders and let my breasts hang out." I counsel that this new tactic might prove a little more fruitful.

NEIGHBOURS are learning not to mess with Janet Street-Porter. The voice from Hell caught one dumping a bag of rubbish outside her London home this week. Not content with asking him to remove it, she summoned the full range of her vocabulary before concluding that the offender was a "fat pig".

Angry bear THAT cuddly colossus, Terry Waite, has joined the chorus of outrage over the Queen's "decision" to honour Emperor Akhito of Japan. Waite, the former Beirut hostage, has found common cause with British PoWs who blanche at the plan to invest Akhito with the Order of the Garter. He has agreed to become president of a Far East Prisoners of War Association. "Expatriates deserve an unqualified apology," says Waite, from a quiet hideaway in the Suffolk countryside. "They take exception to Akhito being invested with one of the highest awards the nation can offer." I suspect that Prince Philip is discreetly raising a glass.



Fur quotes: Stella McCartney

STELLA McCARTNEY, the designer daughter of Sir Paul, has taken up her late mother's crusade against the maltreatment of animals. She has just narrated a video attacking women who wear fur, which is to be sent to designers and editors. It shows nice foxes being treated badly by nasty farmers. Meanwhile, I gather that the Vegetarian Society claims an increase in converts since Linda McCartney's death. Her legacy looks safe.

JASPER GERARD

لا تتركنا من الأصل



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 20: The Queen visited Northumberland today and was received at Newcastle Central Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant...



Hewitt Clark, coxswain of the Lerwick lifeboat, with his gold medal, and, left to right, crew members Peter Thomson, Richie Simpson, Brian Laurensen, Ian Leask and Michael Grant with their bronze medals

Gold medal for most decorated lifeboatman

HEWITT Clark of Lerwick lifeboat in the Shetlands, today becomes the most decorated serving lifeboat coxswain when the Duke of Kent, President of the RNLI, formally presents him with a gold medal for bravery at the Barbican, London...

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will name the research ship Scotia in Aberdeen Harbour at 11.30. The Duke of York will participate in the HMS Dryad King George's Fund for Sailors Golf Classic at Southwick Park Naval recreation ground, Fareham at 12.30.

Luncheons

Lord High Commissioner Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Hogg gave a luncheon yesterday at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Operational honours and awards

Honours and awards to members of the Armed Forces for service in Northern Ireland from April-September 1997, the former Yugoslavia from June-December 1997 and for miscellaneous minor operations and incidents during 1997:

Dinners

Lord High Commissioner Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Lady Hogg gave a dinner last night at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P. Berrill and Miss A.M. Voelcker The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Captain Patrick Berrill-Daly and the late Mrs Patrick Berrill...

Marriage

Mr J.E.P. Fitch and Miss F.J.L. Beauchamp The marriage took place on Saturday, May 16, 1998, at All Saints' Church, Nunney, Somerset...

School news

Bolton School A reunion for all Old Boltonians who left the Boys' Division in the years 1960 to 1970 will be held at the school on Saturday, June 27, from 11.30am onwards.

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BIRTHS NELSON - On May 13th to Richard and Sally, a son, William Henry Nelson...

DEATHS BERRY - The Hon. Neville Berry, aged 88 years, passed away peacefully at his home...

DEATHS HOODSON - Richard Hoodson, aged 94 years, beloved brother of Sandra and David, died peacefully at his home...

DEATHS MURRAY - Alan Murray, aged 82 years, died peacefully at his home on Monday, May 18th...

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE McILROY - Bony 21st May 1997. Deeply missed by his wife, children Susan, Jane, Richard and grandchildren Joanna, Paul, Katie and Richard.

لاذنا من الاصل

OBITUARIES

BORIS FORD

Boris Ford, literary critic and educationist, died on May 19 aged 80. He was born on July 1, 1917.

A leading member of what might be called the second generation of the Leavis school of critics and a personal protégé of F. R. Leavis himself, Boris Ford nevertheless spread his net wide as an educator, entering fields of which the master would certainly not have approved.



Ford: Leavisite intellectual rigour, without the constricting fanaticism

Nevertheless, Ford possessed all his mentor's intellectual rigour without ever consenting to narrow his outlook, as Leavis did. He was also happily free of that rancid fanaticism which latterly characterised the debates of Leavis and his acolytes, and made the reading of English at Cambridge something of a battlefield in the 1960s.

Ford's monument is the Pelican Guide to English Literature, which appeared in seven volumes between 1954 and 1961 and was reissued — extensively rewritten and expanded — in the 1980s. Although an invaluable survey for successive generations of students, it was in no sense a "crib". It set itself high standards; indeed, many of its contributors were among the best who had written for Scrutiny from 1932. If he had not previously had an excuse to fall out with his gifted pupil, Leavis found a pretext in this, accusing Ford of poaching his writers and forcing the closure of Scrutiny in 1953. As in all other such cases, the excommunication of Ford, once uttered, was never rescinded.

and editor, Ford held three successive chairs of education: at Sheffield, Sussex and Bristol. But until he went to the first of these posts in 1960, his career had been outside academia, and this may have contributed to the breadth of his outlook.

Boris Ford was born into an Army family, the son of an Indian Army officer, Brigadier G. N. Ford and his Russian wife Ekaterina. But he was brought back to England for his education, first to Cambridge where he became head chorister at King's College School and then to Gresham's

School, Holt. There he was taught English by Denys Thompson who, with L. C. Knights was co-editor of Scrutiny. Knights's provocative essay How Many Children Had Lady Macbeth? (1933) — one of the early salvos in the battle against critical habits of mind which reigned in schools of English in the 1930s — was one of Ford's first school prizes. Knights often visited Thompson at Gresham's School and Ford was invited to join this august pair in their learned ramblings over the sands of Wells-next-the-Sea.

It was a natural progression for Ford to go, in 1935, to Downing College, Cambridge, where his studies were supervised by Leavis. Under Leavis, Ford made rapid progress; one of his undergraduate essays, on Wuthering Heights, so pleased his tutor that Leavis had it published in Scrutiny of which, though he had no formal position on the editorial board, he was of course the guiding spirit.

Ford graduated with first class honours in English in 1939, on the eve of the outbreak of war. Joining the Army, he immediately gravitated to-

wards the education side, and from 1940 to 1946 was Officer Commanding the Middle East School of Artistic Studies, an imaginative attempt to provide education for other ranks in Middle East Command, through the staging of plays, poetry readings, creative writing exercises and other stimuli. Between 1946 and 1949 he was, successively, chief editor, deputy director and finally director of the Bureau of Current Affairs.

In 1951 he was appointed information officer of the technical assistance board of the United Nations, working in Geneva and New York; in 1953 he became secretary of the National Enquiry into Liberalising Technical Education (1953-55). He had already published Discussion Method (1949) and a Teachers' Handbook to Human Rights (1950).

It was in the seven-year period when he was, in succession, Editor of the Journal of Education and Head of Schools Broadcasting, Independent Television, and then Education Secretary of Cambridge University Press that the seven volumes of the Pelican Guide emerged from Penguin. Not all the volumes were greeted with the same enthusiasm. With so many of the distinguished band of Leavisites among its contributors it could hardly escape falling occasionally into the didacticism germane to that school. Extremes of opinion were not always clearly enough telegraphed to the non-specialist reader. Minor poetic talents, such as those of Rupert Brooke and Dylan Thomas, were occasionally dismissed as being of no account. There were oddities of balance, as in the medieval volume where Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde was inadequately dealt with. But by the time the seventh volume, The Modern Age, appeared in 1961 it was apparent that it provided an at least highly stimulating discussion of English literature from earliest times to the 20th century.

appointment of Ford as Independent Television's head of schools broadcasting had been an imaginative one. ITV was ahead of BBC Television in this respect. But Ford's time in television was not to be the fruitful one he had hoped. Within a year he had resigned over the principle of the intrusion of advertising which, given the commercial nature of the beast, was scheduled to invade his programmes, too.

From CUP Ford embarked on his academic career proper. From the Cambridge University Press he went to Sheffield University where he was Professor of Education from 1960 to 1963. From Sheffield he went to the new University of Sussex where he was Professor of Education for the next ten years. Finally, in 1973 he moved to Bristol, where he was Professor of Education until his retirement in 1982. This period gave rise to a number of educational publications.

By that time it had become apparent that the Pelican Guide needed revision and the 11 volumes of the New Pelican Guide to English Literature were issued between 1982 and 1988. Yet another large editing task awaited Ford, and the Cambridge Guide to the Arts in Britain appeared in nine volumes, between 1988 and 1991. Benjamin Britten's Poets (1994), which he edited, was an examination of the poets the composer chose to set to music and the personal philosophy of life implied by his choice.

Along with art (he was a contributor to Modern Painters), music was to be one of Ford's ruling passions throughout his life. He was a more than competent pianist and loved to sing into old age. Within the last ten years he had developed a counter-tenor voice — "my real voice these days," it seems," he remarked.

Ford's marriage in 1950 to his first wife, Noreen, was dissolved, as was his marriage in 1977 to his second wife, Inge. He is survived by the son and three daughters of his first marriage.

JOHN TITCHELL



Titchell the pointillist: "the Seurat of Kent"

John Titchell, RA, painter, died on May 11 aged 71. He was born on August 6, 1926.

KENNETH CLARK once called John Titchell "the Seurat of Kent". The description may not have been quite fair — to either artist — but it nicely conveys both the radiance of Titchell's pointillist technique, and the intensity of his concern with the nature of light.

John Titchell was born in Crayford, West Kent, and educated at the local elementary school. He served in the Army from 1945 to 1947, almost entirely in India, a country which impressed him deeply. He then attended Sidcup School of Art, and from there won a place at the Royal College of Art.

At the Royal College he extended his natural talent for tone and atmospheric colour, always with a strong feeling for the character of a place. During his postgraduate course he also experimented with the assemblage of objets trouvés culled from fairground bric-a-brac and the like. Had he persisted in this vein he might have established himself as one of the first British Pop artists, displaying more wit than many later exponents. But he soon returned to his natural gifts of tonality, light and colour.

In due course he moved to East Kent, to an old cottage near Pluckley (a house which he and his wife, Audrey, eventually bought). Here he developed his painting into a form of very personal and highly chromatic pointillism.

Latterly he came more and more to use intense water-colour, which allowed him to produce a heightened and shimmering intensity of atmospheric light. "Here is my subject matter," he used to explain, "my garden, local trees, the beach at Deal. But it all has to be dealt with through this stuff that comes between me and the subject" — by which he meant the air.

He would nearly always pick a few limited subjects and paint a series of them seen through all hours of the varying daylight. He extended this to Venice, where instead of wandering among the usual tourist views, he would pick a single equestrian statue on the Riva degli Schiavoni and assiduously follow the changing play of light upon it.

He always had original things to say about painting and people. A fine teacher, too, he was a splendid (and well-read) raconteur. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1986 and an Academician in 1991.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, and by a son and a daughter.

SIR JOHN NABARRO

Sir John Nabarro, physician, died on April 23 aged 82. He was born on December 21, 1915.

TO THOSE who knew only his stern presence at committee meetings in his later years, Sir John Nabarro seemed an unlikely reformer. But he was in many ways a fine example of the old tradition of London teaching hospital physicians, and had a remarkable impact on various aspects of medicine nationwide.

As chairman of the joint consultants committee of the British Medical Association and the Conference of Royal Medical Colleges, he created order out of chaos and introduced the then novel concept of manpower planning for junior doctors. He devised a system for matching junior posts to likely consultant va-

cancies, which was much criticised but was effective and looks remarkably good when compared with current efforts. He was chairman of the committee at the start of the Thatcher Government's reforms, and did much to limit the damage of some of the more vigorous proposals, where enthusiasm had outrun common sense.

Sir John was also a leading light in the diabetes world. He was a masterly chairman of the medical and scientific section of the British Diabetic Association and then of the association itself, steering through a series of crucial changes. His ability to run meetings was legendary. The most ornate agenda melted away as with ruthless logic he produced a short meeting with a clear, unequivocal outcome. This appeared a little autocr-



atic to some, but was greatly appreciated by those with trains to catch. He was devoted to his patients and through the British Diabetic Association he persuaded the Government to give free prescrip-

tions for disposable syringes and blood glucose test strips. John David Nunes Nabarro was born in London. His father was a Sephardic Jewish pathologist who worked at Great Ormond Street. His mother a nursing sister. He was educated at Hampstead College School, Hampstead, and Uxbridge, Middlesex University College, Medical School, where he won a range of prizes and joined enthusiastically, though not expertly, in rugby and tennis.

He passed the primary FRCS exam before qualifying in 1938, and had a flying start by working for the eminent physician Sir Thomas Lewis before being called up in 1939. He then oscillated around the Home Counties in various roles before being shipped out to Egypt. In the event, he went to Iraq via Palestine, thence

back to Egypt and the Italian front. Thereafter he applied for transfer to general medicine and spent a happy period in Cairo and Haifa, finally being demobbed in December 1945.

He rapidly passed the MRCP exam and the MD shortly afterwards and became successively assistant medical registrar and senior registrar. During this period he was noted for marrying one of the house physicians in the hospital and for propelling a grand piano down a stairwell. It is rumoured that the latter resulted in his moving in 1954 as consultant to the Middlesex, where he remained until his retirement in 1981. He then became director of the new Institute of Clinical Sciences. He received many honours in medicine and diabetes, and was knighted in 1983.

Though specialising in diabetes and endocrinology, he was par excellence a general physician — an endangered species today. He published nearly 200 papers, combining careful clinical observation with meticulous laboratory work. In particular he inspired and trained many younger people, several of whom have become distinguished medical scientists. The essence of the man was thoroughness and attention to detail, combined with ruthless logic and a dagger-sharp mind.

In his final retirement he committed himself to philately with particular reference to Netherlands covers, and showed the same obsession as he had with medicine. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and by two sons and two daughters.

John Louis Gili (Joan Gili i Serra), antiquarian bookseller, translator and publisher, died on May 6 aged 91. He was born on February 10, 1907.

JOHN LOUIS GILI was the last of a distinguished generation of British booksellers that included David Low, Harold Edwards and Peter Murray Hill. But he stood slightly apart. Born a Catalan, he thought of himself as belonging to two countries. He adopted the anglicised name of John on his naturalisation in 1948, but was known to his family and friends by his Catalan name, Joan. When written rather than spoken, this could cause confusion.

He was brought up in Barcelona, where his father ran a religious publishing house. One of his sisters became a Carmelite nun, but he himself was not a believer. Feeling stifled by middle-class Barcelona society, he developed a passion for English literature, particularly the short story, about which he wrote regularly in La Publicista. One day he read an article in The Bookman which led to a correspondence with its author, C. Henry Warren, a well-known writer about the countryside. When Warren invited him to visit England in 1933, he jumped at the opportunity. He fell in love with the country and in October 1934 settled here for good. The Spanish Civil War and the Second World War intervened, and he was not to see his family again for 15 years.

Together with Warren, he opened a bookshop in Cecil Court, off Charing Cross Road, called the Dolphin. At first they sold English as well

J. L. GILI



as Spanish books, but it was the Spanish books that made money. Gili bought out Warren, and sold the English stock to Harold Edwards, his neighbour in Cecil Court. The Dolphin bookshop became the first in Britain to specialise in Spanish and Latin American books and manuscripts. He built up important collections of material relating to the 18th-century War of the Spanish Succession and of Catalan manuscripts from 911 to 1850, which are now in the Houghton Library at Harvard.

In 1938 Gili started his series of Hispanic publications. As well as textbooks and literary studies, there were English translations of authors such as Miguel de Unamuno, Luis Cermeña, the Nobel prizewinner Juan Ramón Jiménez and Pablo Neruda, and of Federico García Lorca. (Poems, translated in collaboration with Stephen Spender, was one of the first books to introduce Lorca's writing to an English-speaking audience.)

In the 1950s Gili was asked by Penguin Books to make a new prose translation of Lorca's poems; this bilingual edition was a significant influence on several generations. Equally influential was his Introductory Catalan Grammar, originally published in 1943, when Catalan was banned by the Franco regime, and still in print today.

As a registered alien during the Second World War Gili was not allowed to help the war effort, not even to help fight fires. But then he was married, and he moved the Dolphin bookshop to Oxford, where his baby son co-existed happily with the books. The end of the war found the household relocated to a Victorian mansion in North Oxford, where two more children were born and the books expanded to fill two floors.

In 1954 the Catalan nationalist Joseph M. Bausis i Roca conceived the idea of an Anglo-Catalan Society, of which Gili was a founding member and later president. He became known as the "unofficial consul of the Catalans in Britain", and was honoured by the Catalan Government for his role in promoting Catalan literature.

After Lorca, he turned to the great Catalan poets, translating work by Carles Riba, Salvador Espriu and Josep Carner. He used his scholarship to edit the texts he published, and his stylish typographical sense to design the "Dolphin" books and catalogues.

An honorary MA from Oxford awarded in 1987, together with his attachment to Exeter College, gave him particular pleasure as he had not had a university education.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and their two sons and a daughter.

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ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE QUEEN.

On Saturday, as the rejoicings in honour of Her Majesty's birthday were proceeding, and while the streets of the metropolis were crowded with holiday folk, an odious attempt was made by which it was at first thought that the lives of Her Majesty and her Royal children had been placed in serious peril. The disgraceful outrage was committed between half-past 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening, as Her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and the Princess Helena, was returning from a drive in Hyde Park. They had reached the lower end of Constitution-hill, on their way to the palace, when suddenly a pistol shot was fired at them by a man dressed in the garb of a labourer, who stood with his back to a tree, within the railings of the park.

ON THIS DAY

May 21, 1849

Other attempts on the life of Queen Victoria had been made — one in 1840 and two in 1842. his Royal Highness Prince Albert, who had been out on horseback and was slightly in advance when the occurrence took place. On the arrival of the prisoner at the station-house in Gardner's Lane ... the following additional particulars were gleaned: The name of the prisoner is John Hamilton. He is a native of Ireland, and follows the occupation of a bricklayer's labourer. He has been resident in this country for five years, but states that he was born at Adare, in the county of Limerick, and his accent and general appearance clearly prove him to be of Hibernian origin. For some time past he has resided principally at No. 3, Eccleston-place, Fimbo ... On Saturday morning his

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY MAY 21 1998

Biotech 'misled Stock Exchange'

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH BIOTECH misled a Stock Exchange investigation about the extent of its knowledge about the side-effect problems caused by one of its cancer drugs.

comments are disclosed in a report prepared by Cameron McKenna, the law firm called in to investigate concerns raised by Andy Millar, sacked last month as director of clinical research.

The company has for the past month relied on an application for an injunction to prevent *The Times* publishing the contents of the Cameron McKenna report. Yesterday the paper forced British Biotech to abandon its attempt to prevent the full story from coming out.

In a letter to the Stock Exchange in May 1995, Biotech's company secretary said directors had been told that the batimastat trial was "proceeding normally" in January 1995 — the month in which Dr McCullagh and two former directors sold £1.35 million shares.

search and development director who told the board that the trial was proceeding normally, admitted to Cameron McKenna that there was a "question mark" over the trial from January 10 onwards.

count of the batimastat affair is more damaging than Biotech's own version, published in a circular to shareholders on Tuesday. But those close to the events say the report is itself seriously inadequate.

Directors told of trials progress

By PAUL DURMAN

THE chairman and all five executive directors of British Biotech have been told of the poor results emerging from trials of its pancreatic drug, according to a sworn statement from Andy Millar, sacked last month as director of clinical research.

Dr Millar says: "At different times I expressly informed Peter Lewis, Keith McCullagh, Pam Kirby, John Rasmussen, Alan Drummond, Malcolm Fallon and eventually Peter Jensen, of the situation with regard to the emerging early clinical trial data."

With the exception of Dr McCullagh, chief executive, the other directors have denied any knowledge of so-called unblinded data. Dr McCullagh made a similar statement to *The Times* last month, only to be contradicted by British Biotech's circular to shareholders on Tuesday.

The most recent data from 927 patients was reviewed in blinded form by Dr Jensen, Dr Kirby, Dr Drummond and about ten senior colleagues at a meeting in March. In three unidentified groups, there had been 23, 32 and 21 patient deaths. Dr Millar suggests the first figure is for patients receiving a placebo, and that this means Zacetex is failing to prevent deaths from pancreatitis.

Suspensions for quartet of ex-MGAM executives

By RICHARD MILES

FOUR former executives of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management have been suspended for up to three years by a City watchdog for their part in the Peter Young unit trust scandal.

Each of the four admitted to a string of Imro charges that MGAM senior managers failed to take adequate steps to control Mr Young in the 12 months before the forced suspension of the three funds under his control in September 1996.

Mr Percy and his five former colleagues left MGAM in the autumn of 1996 after the firm's parent, Deutsche Bank, was forced to bail out 180,000 small investors by pumping £180 million into the three funds run by Mr Young.

restricted from holding a compliance position. Imro said Mr Wheatley had failed to investigate the unlisted companies created and utilised by Mr Young to acquire problem holdings in the European Growth Trust, the largest of the three funds.

Mr Wheatley was also charged with failing to inform Imro between April and August 1996 of Mr Young's massive holding in unlisted stocks. There is no suggestion of dishonesty on Mr Wheatley's part, nor of personal gain.

Glyn Owen, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell International Funds and Mr Young's immediate superior, received a three-year ban. Graham Kane, the director responsible for unit trust marketing, was suspended for 16 months, while Paul Ebling, a compliance officer, received a two-year suspension.

All four are believed to face bills of about £200,000 each after agreeing to pay Imro's investigation costs and a contribution towards its disciplinary costs.



Three cheers: Andy Bassadone, left, Mogens Tholstrup and Tim Power, right, operations director of Belgo Group

Tholstrup sells Daphne's to Belgo

THREE of London's trendiest restaurants — The Collection, Daphne's and Pasha — have been sold to Belgo Group, headed by Luke Johnson, the co-founder of PizzaExpress, in a £9.3 million deal that nets £5.5 million for Mogens Tholstrup, the Danish-born restaurateur (Jon Ashworth writes).

from the receivers in 1993 and has made The Collection one of South Kensington's most fashionable haunts, is taking £2.5 million in cash, with the rest in shares in Belgo.

Halifax steps up Sunday service

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

BANKS moved a step closer to full Sunday trading yesterday as Halifax announced it was switching to a permanent seven-day-a-week service in 100 branches.

The branches will be open from 11am to 3pm and will offer a full range of products and services to customers. The bank is also opening 200 branches all day on Saturdays. It already has 650 branches that open on Saturday mornings.

The move follows a successful pilot scheme launched two months ago. Halifax claimed that both customers and staff had welcomed the extension in opening hours.

with borrowers as the house buying season got under way. However, the bank expects savers' interest to pick up as Christmas approaches.

Rivals said they would keep a "watching brief" on the demand for Sunday opening but considered extending hours on Saturdays a greater priority.

NatWest, which experimented with Sunday trading over Christmas periods from 1994-96 and now opens just two branches (Lakeside, Thurrock, and Bental, Kingston upon Thames), was the most sceptical. "We found there wasn't a lot of demand for it," Barclays has no plans to extend its Sunday service beyond three shopping centres.

Greenbury dual role reviewed

MARKS & SPENCER has raised the prospect of splitting Sir Richard Greenbury's roles as chairman and chief executive (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company said yesterday its board wants Sir Richard, who is 62, to retire at 65. This was "the unanimous wish of the board".

It said: "The board discusses the issues relating to organisation and succession on an ongoing basis including the roles of chairman and chief executive."

Splitting the roles would please the City. Internal candidates for chief executive are Keith Oates, the deputy chairman, and Guy McCracken, Lord Stone of Blackheath and Peter Salisbury, managing directors.

FA close to £20m One-2-One deal

By JASON NISSÉ

THE Football Association is close to securing one of the largest team sponsorship deals ever concluded in sport with a £20 million contract to back the England football team after the World Cup.

One-2-One, the mobile-phone group, is understood to be in talks to take over from Green Flag, the roadside recovery company, as the main sponsor. The cost of the sponsorship has soared from the £1 million a year that Green Flag was paying to nearly £20 million for a four-year deal.

For this the sponsor does not even get the company's name on England shirts. Under the rules of Fifa, the international governing body, sponsorship is not allowed on international

team kits. This sponsorship comes on top of the £50 million, five-year deal the FA agreed with Umbro Europe to make the England team strip. The FA is also seeking up to ten "Football Associates" who will be the core sponsors of England matches and FA Cup games.

Among the deals to be struck is a new sponsor for the FA Cup. Littlewoods has signalled that it does not want to renew its agreement.

The new England team sponsor will take over in August and hope to have a better start than Green Flag. Its first match was the game in Dublin against the Republic of Ireland, which was abandoned because of crowd trouble.

Record \$550m bonus for Wang at CA

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

CHARLES WANG, the chairman of Computer Associates (CA), stands to receive a windfall of \$550 million (£330 million) worth of shares today.

The one-off bonus ranks among the highest made to a private individual in America. Mr Wang has presided over a tenfold increase in CA's share price since 1994 and Wall Street analysts believe the shares would have risen even more but for a failed hostile \$10 billion bid for

Computer Science Corporation earlier this year.

He received a share option package in 1995 when CA shares were worth around \$20. The options can be exercised when the price has stayed above \$55 for 60 days in one year. That point is expected to come at the close of the Nasdaq market today.

Mr Wang will automatically be awarded the block of shares on the 60th day, and could sell them immediately. The company is taking a \$1 billion charge to pay for its share option programme that

also gives large windfalls for other senior executives. Sanjay Kumar, the CA president, will receive \$278 million and Russell Artzi, an executive vice president, \$92 million.

Wall Street yesterday applauded Mr Wang's windfall. Melissa Eisenstat, at CIBC Oppenheimer, said: "Computer Associates has made a ton of money for investors and it is justified. While the award is certainly rich for three executives, the tenfold appreciation in the stock over the last five years has created a lot of wealth for shareholders also."



Wang: tenfold rise in price

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New Look's new attempt to float looks likely

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THE second attempt by the New Look fashion chain to float on the London Stock Exchange is expected to succeed after it revealed that it wants to net only £82 million and indicated that its shares will be modestly priced.

New Look, which was founded by Tom Singh, the Asian entrepreneur, in 1969, failed to float in 1994. This time the company is being fronted by Howard Dyer as chairman and Jim Hodgkinson, the former head of B&Q, as chief executive. The board will be selling a small number of shares while Mr Singh, who will own 33 per cent of the company after flotation, does not intend to sell any.



The flotation prospectus includes details of the remuneration of Tom Singh, left, New Look's founder, and Howard Dyer and Jim Hodgkinson

BT will take fresh approach to US market, says Vallance

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

SIR Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, yesterday promised a "fresh approach" to the US market after the loss of MCI to WorldCom. He said that finding a new way into the all-important American market was "a key preoccupation of the company" in addition to protecting its Concert business aimed at multinational companies.

Asked whether the prices of telecommunications companies in the US were simply too high for BT, Sir Iain replied that factor would be taken into account. He said: "We are in discussions with a number of potential partners (in the US) at the moment." BT is considering all options, including joint ventures and partnerships, in America but a large takeover now looks unlikely.

Legally BT cannot enter another binding deal in the US until the MCI/WorldCom merger, which still faces regulatory hurdles, is complete, probably in late summer or early autumn. Meanwhile, BT does not want to be too closely identified with anyone else in the industry. Yesterday the group reported flat pre-tax profits of £3.2 billion for the year to March 31 on turnover up from £14.9

billion to £15.6 billion. The results were affected by two exceptional items — a \$465 million (about £285 million) credit from WorldCom as a result of break-up of the proposed merger with MCI and a \$510 million windfall tax charge in the UK. Operating profits rose from £3.2 billion to £3.6 billion, while call charges were reduced by more than £650 million in the face of growing

competition. In the fourth quarter operating profit rose from £695 million to £804 million. The total dividend for the year of 19p, with an 11.45p final, represents an increase of 6.4 per cent. BT shares fell 2 1/2 p to 638p. BT's international call volume grew by 9 per cent but, because of a 20 per cent reduction in call prices, call turnover fell by 14.2 per cent to £5.5 billion. In local and national calls price reductions largely offset a 7 per cent growth in call volume. BT confirmed that it was prepared to accept two conditions set by Brussels to meet concerns about its participation as a shareholder in British Interactive Broadcasting, the satellite delivered-interactive services group. The conditions are that BT sell off its cable networks — mainly Westminster Cable and its network in Milton Keynes — and that third parties would be able to get access to the BIB-subsidised set-top boxes.

Rover R40 car to create 1,000 jobs

By ROBERT COLE

ROVER, the British motor marque now owned by Germany's BMW, is creating 1,000 jobs at its Cowley plant near Oxford. The workforce expansion is part of its £400 million project to launch a new car.

entirely under BMW ownership. The R40 is set to replace the Rover 600 and 800 models at the executive end of the range. The new car will be unveiled at the Birmingham Motor Show in October, and is scheduled to go on sale next spring. Hopes are that the R40 could double car production at Cowley from the present 55,000 units a year.

The headcount at Cowley will swell to 3,500 after the expansion. Rover estimates that, as well as the 1,000 jobs at its own factory, 5,000 people will find work in satellite firms supplying components. More good news on the employment front came from Paris-based Cap Gemini, the computer services company that was formerly called

Hoskyns in this country. It wants to recruit 2,500 people in Britain, including 500 graduates, to help it to accommodate rising demand from companies concerned to avoid millennium bug problems in the run up to the year 2000. However, the company said that there were permanent prospects for holders of the new posts.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gold demand down 55% in three months

THE World Gold Council yesterday reported the first big fall in gold demand in six years as a result of Asia's economic crisis, but it predicted a strong market recovery. The council's quarterly *Gold Demand Trends* showed a 55 per cent drop in world demand to a total of 342.1 tonnes in the three months to the end of March, the first significant fall in consumption since the surveys began in 1992. The gold price saw its biggest slump in more than a decade, falling from about \$417 (about £255) an ounce in February last year to about US\$298 yesterday. It reached an 18-year low of \$276.50 on January 13. Sales of gold by some central banks have knocked confidence in the metal as a safe haven, and worries about further sales, especially in Europe as it moves to monetary union next year, continue to overhang the market. The world council played down the concerns, saying underlying demand was sound, the worst of the selling in Asia was over and that Europe's big central banks were "gold friendly".

Accountancy go-ahead

THE merger of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse was formally cleared by regulators in Brussels yesterday, as Coopers in Brazil announced it was seeking a separate link with Arthur Andersen. The enlarged Brazil practice would have earnings of more than \$160 million. Clearance from Brussels means Coopers and Price Waterhouse can now finalise plans for their merger, which is due to take effect from July 1. *Accountancy*, page 33

Baggeridge builds up

BAGGERIDGE BRICK, the West Midlands building materials group, raised pre-tax profits from £700,000 to £1.8 million on sales up 13 per cent to £17.9 million. Earnings rose from 1.09p to 2.96p, out of which the half-year dividend rises from 0.75p to 0.85p. The shares rose 3 1/2 p to 117p. Baggeridge said: "The market sectors into which the company sells its products all appear more soundly based than for some considerable time."

BSkyB appoints Stewart

BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING Group yesterday appointed Martin Stewart as chief financial officer of the satellite television company. Mr Stewart succeeds the late Nick Carrington who died suddenly this year. Mr Stewart has been at BSKyB since 1996, first as head of commercial finance and then as deputy to Mr Carrington. Prior to joining BSKyB, Mr Stewart was finance director at PolyGram Filmed Entertainment (UK).

Sutcliffe disposal

SHARES in Sutcliffe, Speakman rose 2 1/2 p to 25p after the speciality chemicals group announced it was planning to sell its carbons business for £27.7 million and proposed a return to shareholders of £18.8 million via a 25p share tender offer. The group, which will concentrate on its Banner speciality chemicals business, said pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £5.3 million and earnings rose 15 per cent to 2.60p. The dividend for the year rises 9 per cent to 1.2p after a 0.7p final.

Frost frozen out of CCA

CONSOLIDATION of the cable industry — now down to virtually three big players — has cost Bob Frost, chief executive of the Cable Communications Association, his job. The association members have decided that "the office of the chief executive will be no longer required in its current format". Mr Frost, who made what Steve Wagner, chairman of the CCA and group managing director of NTL called an "invaluable" contribution, left the association on Tuesday.

Versailles advances

VERSAILLES GROUP, the provider of trade finance services, lifted pre-tax profits to £7.7 million from £5.12 million in the year to the end of February, an increase of 50.3 per cent. Earnings rose to 2.05p a share (1.37p). The total dividend is 0.45p a share, after a final of 0.235p. The company moved from the Alternative Investment Market to a full listing in October. Carl Cushnie, the chairman, said the company had made a strong start to the current year.

Orbis buys Hi-Security

ORBIS, the security services group, is acquiring Hi-Security, which provides protection for vacant property mainly in the North, Midlands and South Wales, for £15.74 million. The group is to raise £13.4 million by a placing and open offer of new shares at 48p each. The shares rose 1 1/2 p to 55p. Orbis yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £5.1 million (£3.54 million) for the year to March 31. Earnings per share were 4.39p (3.56p). A final dividend of 1.25p a share, makes a total of 1.6p (1.27p).

KLM boosted by sale

KLM, the Dutch airline, lifted net profits to 2.2 billion guilders (£675 million) from 236 million guilders in the year to March 31. Results benefited from a net 1.6 billion guilders extraordinary profit, caused by the sale of KLM's stake in the US carrier Northwest Airlines. KLM said it also benefited from favourable exchange rates and a decline in fuel prices. The company expects operating income to improve this year as a result of restructuring and alliances with other airlines.

Prestwick's warning

PRESTWICK HOLDINGS said it was unlikely to record a profit for the full year because of the rapid deterioration in the global electronics market. The electronic equipment company, which has a July year-end, can see no recovery in the next three months. Pat Moore, the chief executive, said: "As Prestwick has recently acquired significant new customers, we expect to benefit quickly from any upturn or further strengthening of currencies against sterling."

Fifield to be chief at North Face

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

JIM FIFIELD, the former EMI executive, has taken up the chief executive post at North Face, a US maker of backpacks and other outdoor wear. Last month Mr Fifield packed his bags at EMI after the board failed to make him chief executive.

The North Face job marks a significant scaling down of the ambitions of the man once dubbed "Lucky Jim". He fell out with Sir Colin Southgate, the EMI chairman, after demanding a £7 million salary. North Face, which did not disclose his new salary, is a twentieth of the size of EMI with a market value of \$250 million.

Mr Fifield said: "As an avid skier and outdoor enthusiast, I firmly believe in the company's culture and entrepreneurial spirit." He used \$14 million of the \$20 million he received from an EMI golden parachute to buy North Face shares. Mr Fifield, an American citizen, was head of EMI's US operations and has been on the North Face board for the past two years. William Simon, the resigning chief executive, said: "The appointment of Jim Fifield is a coup for our company."

Executives back £3.60 minimum

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

EXECUTIVES overwhelmingly back a national minimum wage of £3.60 an hour and a substantial number would be happy with a higher rate, a survey by Reed Accountancy Personnel and Accountancy Age says.

The poll of 250 UK finance directors found that 73 per cent favour £3.60 or higher, 19 per cent a lower figure. A significant minority of 36 per cent said it should be higher. The average figure suggested was £4.

The findings come shortly before the Low Pay Commission, charged by the Government to recommend a level is due to publish its recommendation. Its report is expected before the end of this month and the figure has been widely reported to be £3.60. Despite the large majority in favour of £3.60, finance directors in the survey were concerned about the minimum wage being applied equally to all age groups, particularly young people on training schemes. The Confederation of British Industry has been arguing for a level no higher than £3.50 while trade unions have been seeking a figure above £4.

Bank of New York scraps hostile takeover attempt Mellon Bank sees off \$24bn bid

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BANK of New York has withdrawn its \$24 billion (£14 billion) hostile takeover offer for Mellon Bank, exposing the near impossibility of mounting unfriendly bids in the banking sector. The New York retail bank last month made the sector's biggest hostile bid to date, hoping that merger mania had changed the climate to make unfriendly bids possible. But Mellon Bank put up a spirited defence that was successful even though many of its shareholders were keen to

accept the generous BoNY offer. Unsolicited bids for banks are rare because bidders fear that a successful approach will trigger a staff exodus. BoNY's task was made even harder by stringent takeover laws in Mellon's home state of Pennsylvania. Mellon had declined even to discuss the \$24 billion offer, claiming that a combination of operations was not in its interest. Frank Cahouet, Mellon's chief executive, said on Tuesday that "it was completely unfriendly" and that a merger would

not enhance the shareholder value but would actually result in lower value for our shareholders". Shareholders were offered 1.4 shares of Bank of New York stock for each Mellon share, implying a 28 per cent premium to the market price. Many shareholders had agreed with BoNY's suggestion that a combined company would be better able to compete in the rapidly consolidating financial services industry. But the threat of an executive walk-out swayed them against accepting the offer. The New York bank said it would still be available for talks if Mellon changed its mind. Thomas Rynell, the BoNY chairman, said: "I am really hurt by Mellon's dismissive and superficial treatment of this transaction."

BoNY is now likely to look for other partners. Mellon has been widely seen as a takeover target since failing to tie up an \$18 billion bid last October for CoreStates Financial. It spurned Mellon in favour of a deal with First Union.

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CHANGING TIMES

National thwarted for US exp



Tesco director's go

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Raisman must explain himself



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

As allegations of malpractice gathered over British Biotech, the company took a predictable course. It called for the lawyers and commissioned a report into the matters. When the allegations, principally of misleading the markets and insider share dealing by directors, refused to die, British Biotech waved the report by Cameron McKenna and insisted that the company had been given the all clear.

When *The Times* saw the lawyers' report, we came to a rather different conclusion. That is why we felt that shareholders should be made aware of the contents. That is also why British Biotech fought to stop us publishing and rushed to the courts for an injunction.

This week, the company produced its own report into what has been going on and, not entirely surprisingly, came to the conclusion that everyone had acted honourably. The fact that chief executive Keith McCullagh was standing down, with no replacement in line, was not to be read as any condemnation of his role in the running of the business, quite the contrary.

If the company had hoped this would be the end of the affair, it was being naive. For the Cameron McKenna report reveals damaging insights into the share dealing affair and the way that

information was suppressed. That is why British Biotech was anxious to prevent its publication and why we have fought, ultimately successfully, to bring it into the open. After weeks of being silenced, yesterday we won the courtroom's decision that the injunction which had stopped us printing should be lifted. The reasons we fought so hard should be apparent today.

British Biotech has tried to mislead shareholders too often. It did so over the prospects for its drugs. It did so by indicating that independent lawyers had found nothing disquieting. Even this week, it tried to do so by saying that nothing unoward had taken place. This when the drug testing authorities are deeply concerned over statements that the company has made, when the SEC in the United States is investigating, and when the Stock Exchange in London is re-examining the directors' fortuitous share sales.

The chief executive is now leaving, albeit still being hailed as the most honourable of men, but that is not enough. The chairman of British Biotech is a man with

ample experience of public companies and the capacity to keep a difficult and domineering chief executive in check, should he so wish. John Raisman, a former chairman of Shell UK, must be held to account.

City watchdog bares its teeth

The penalties inflicted on a quartet of former Morgan Grenfell directors should serve to put the frighteners on many in the fund management business. No doubt that was partly Imro's intention in dealing so draconianly with the culprits. Even those who have enjoyed many fat years will find being effectively barred from working for several years takes its toll on the family finances.

Michael Wheatley, once

deemed to be the essence of what a proper compliance director should be, is now defrocked, permanently restricted from holding a compliance position again. And unlike the judiciary, the indications are that when Imro says life, it means life.

These men cannot claim total innocence. They were all with Morgan Grenfell Asset Management when Peter Young was having a fine time making record, but sadly fictitious, returns on what was thought to be the group's flagship fund.

Peter Young has yet to appear before Imro or any other regulatory authorities, although the Serious Fraud Office is not uninterested in a wheeze which eventually left MG having to find around £200 million to compensate investors who had been effectively defrauded by Mr Young's imaginative exploits.

It was the task of Imro to decide who should carry the can for the episode. The four who were sentenced yesterday, and Keith Percy, whose case has yet to be decided, have all been ditched by their former employer, which indicates that Morgan Grenfell did not see them as blameless in the affair. But their sins were sins of omission rather than commission. They were duped by the ingenious fund manager and failed to realise that the wondrous returns he was nocking up, and the bonuses that were built on them, had no substance.

Yet there were warning signs. When it became apparent that Young's fund was almost one third invested in unlisted securities, they should have panicked rather more than they did. He was told to reduce the level, but there seems to have been little

will to probe more deeply into what he was doing, nor to alert the regulator to the irregularities. Even compliance officers may sometimes feel that things can be righted without any need to bother the authorities. Imro does not like to be ignored.

Sing a song of millions

If the City was given to reflecting on its mistakes, it might consider the money that could have been made if New Look had been allowed to float four years ago.

Since 1994, sales have leapt from £85.6 million to £318 million while operating profits have risen in line, from £10 million to £39.2 million. Away from the public company spotlight, it has turned itself into the latest-growing big women's wear retailer in the UK. Barclays Private Equity and PPM Ventures struck a good deal when, in 1995, they bought 75 per cent of the business from the family of founder Tom Singh for £170 million. New Look admits it presented

itself badly the first time round. This time there is no danger of that, with the smooth talking Howard Dyer as chairman and Jim Hodgkinson, late of B&Q, in the chief executive's seat. With the shares set for an undemanding p/e, there seems little not to recommend this time. The only caveat in the long term would be the company's growth ambitions. It already has 440 stores and plans up to 150 more. This would outstrip even Dorothy Perkins which has 490 stores. With Germany now on hold, growth will be increasingly hard to find. Competition at home could get tougher if Philip Green decides to tilt his Mark One business straight at New Look. Those venture capitalists got in at the right time.

A Tence time

TENCEL, once seen as the Courtaulds wonder fabric, now has the whiff of Cromptone about it. If Alko's bid succeeds, the Tencel plants could be early victims. It is a sad case of "never mind the feel, what about the marketing?". A clever company might have done for Tencel what Dr. Font did for Lycra, and made it into a "must have". But now not even Dame Edna Everage will feel the same gratitude to Courtaulds as she does to Dr Crimp.

National Power thwarted in bid for US expansion

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

STRONG competition in the US electricity market is frustrating National Power's attempt to build up a significant position across the Atlantic.

The UK's second largest electricity generator wants to establish a 4,000 megawatt portfolio in America but is being outbid in a scramble for assets as the US deregulates its electricity industry.

Keith Henry, chief executive, said that the company had been repeatedly outbid in its attempt to buy plant. "We have been 40 per cent light on price. Packages of assets are going for a premium. We cannot make the numbers work," he explained.

Mr Henry said that National Power was trading at a lower price-earnings ratio than US rivals who were bidding high prices.

The British generator's difficulties in buying electricity assets in the United States contrasts with huge American

investments in Britain's electricity industry. National Power has resorted to greenfield investments and hopes to build two 500 megawatt plants in New England to add to its 1,500 megawatt portfolio.

Yesterday, the company announced a \$250 million investment in new coal and gas-fired power stations in China as it revealed a slide in pre-tax profits from £740 million to £720 million. The decline reflected lower volumes as a result of plant sales and increased competition.

National Power expects to suffer a £130 million reduction in margin as a result of the ending of coal-backed sales contracts. Mr Henry said that British suppliers had been awarded some 80 per cent of the company's annual coal requirement and urged the Government to make a decision on whether the moratorium on gas power stations is to continue. He said: "They need

to move quickly or they will make a decision by default. There is a lot of logic in using a resource that we can control rather than letting it disappear." National Power has a major commitment to coal-fired power generation with the 4,000 megawatt Drax and 1,500 Aberthaw stations.

Mr Henry said that National Power planned to spend £600 million a year on overseas expansion. The utility has invested £1.3 billion in building up a foreign generating portfolio which last year produced profits of £130 million. The company is paying a full-year dividend of 27p, up 8 per cent. Roger Whitcomb, finance director, said it would maintain a progressive dividend despite the fall in earnings. He said that dividend cover could fall to 1.5 times from the current level of 1.8 times.

Tempus, page 30

Courtaulds feels squeeze from Tencel

By CARL MORTISHED

LOSSES from Tencel, the wonder fabric, have put a squeeze on profits at Courtaulds, the chemicals group that recently agreed a £1.8 billion offer from Alko Nobel (see Commentary, this page).

The pain in the fibres business caused a 22 per cent decline in the pre-tax profits of the Courtaulds group last

year and could hamper efforts by PPG, the American coatings group, to mount a rival bid at a higher price for the chemicals company.

The rival consortium, made up of PPG and Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette, the American investment bank, is likely to come under pressure from the Takeover Panel if it fails to make up its mind by next week.

The Courtaulds share price is cur-

rently at a 20p premium to the Alko offer of 450p per share. Both Alko and PPG will have received early notice of the poor results and Courtaulds is likely to lobby soon for a decision from the Americans, arguing that further delay could lead to market confusion.

Profits in Courtaulds's coatings and sealants division were flat at £84 million but gained 12 per cent in constant currencies, while polymer

products gained 16 per cent to £22 million. Fibres fell from £65 million to £51 million because of the losses in Tencel and a breakeven result from viscose which still suffers from severe overcapacity.

Courtaulds is not declaring a final dividend but should the Alko bid fail to be completed, the company intends to maintain the end-of-year payout at 11.95p a share.



Michael Green hopes for an early licence renewal

Carlton TV shrugs off sales drop

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS, the media and television services group, shrugged off a sharp drop in sales in its products division and the costs of digital television to lift pre-tax profits 8 per cent to £172 million in the six months to March 31.

Carlton shares rose 23p to 517.4p as Michael Green, the chairman, spoke of "good progress" on plans to build its television business and to expand Technicolor's film and video operations.

Mr Green said Carlton would submit business plans to the Independent Television Commission (ITC) soon, seeking early renewal of its licences next January to try to reduce the amount of special broadcasting tax it pays. Last year the tax was £114.7 million.

Total revenues rose to £920 million from £896 million. Operating profit was marginally down at £157.1 million and basic earnings before digital costs increased 10.2 per cent to 18.3p a share. The dividend rises 10 per cent to 5.4p a share.

Tempus, page 30

Tesco director's golden hello

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

TESCO, the supermarkets group, made a one-off payment of £170,000 to Andrew Higginson, its finance director, when he joined from Burton Group last November. In total, Mr Higginson, who left Burton ahead of its demerger, was paid £265,000 for just over two months' work, according to the Tesco's annual report. He was also granted 137,994 options. The report also shows that Terry Leahy, in his first year

as chief executive, saw his salary rise from £485,000 to £539,000. His total pay package rose to £798,000 compared with £765,000 a year earlier.

This still looks relatively modest compared with the final full year's pay package of Lord MacLaurin of Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, who retired as chairman last June and who Mr Leahy effectively replaced. For 1996-97 Lord MacLaurin received £1.18 million. For the three months he still worked

at the company in 1997-98, he was paid £259,000.

David Reid, deputy chairman and Mr Higginson's predecessor, was the second-highest-paid executive, with a salary of £488,000 and total pay of £743,000. He is also in line to realise options worth £903,000 this year. He already owns 404,031 shares, worth about £2 million. Mr Leahy owns about £1.76 million worth of shares and stands to realise £125,000 in options this year.



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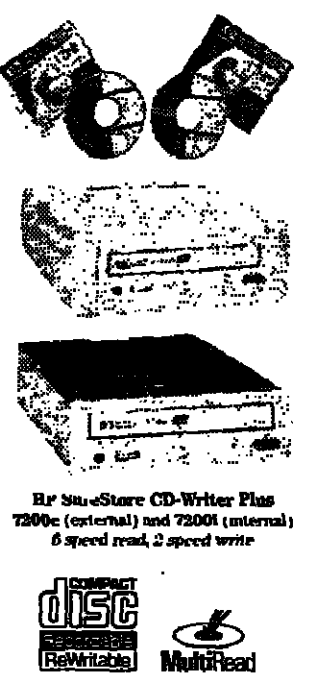
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Free trade must not be a G7 racket

Free trade is good for us for the simple reasons that economists tell us. Countries divide their labours, each producing the things that they are better at, whether absolutely or relatively, and gains grow cumulatively.

The history of the past 50 years, unique in ever more open trade among the majority of nations, offers the best proof that trade makes people better off. As this week's riots against the World Trade Organisation in Geneva suggest, however, things are rarely as simple as the textbook says.

There is no reason why trade should balance, let alone the benefits from it. Balance can be achieved by putting wage rates up and down, but more conveniently by moving exchange rates. Today, however, trade has little direct impact on exchange rates.

Countries looking to better themselves are bullied into the global financial system under pain of having their goods banned. Once in, they find that their currency can fall by 75 per cent in a few weeks, as Indonesia's did

before any hint of instability. Others suddenly shed between 20 and 50 per cent, largely unrelated to trade. The natural response is to slash imports and boost exports at prices other countries could not match. Loss of exports is boosting America's trade deficit, but don't expect to see the streets of Paris clogged with Korean cars.

There are all sorts of mechanisms, some within WTO rules, to keep cheap imports out. They will be used after 2005 for the textile trade, which is finally due to be deregulated. But these weapons can only be fired by big, powerful traders, chiefly Nafta and the EU. America, an original signatory of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has maintained a trade embargo on Cuba, one of only 22 others, for most of the past 50 years. The weak should not try this.

Those who sign up for the global

trading system find they are liable to savage currency and investment dumping that is outlawed in goods but regarded as essential to efficient financial markets. The only redress is to turn to institutions such as the IMF that embody the agendas of the most powerful members of the WTO.

Gains from trade are also becoming ever more unequal. Thanks to those legendary French powers of diplomacy, the European Union gained most from the last, marathon round of trade-opening. We gained markets for our goods, without making serious concessions on food imports. The Cairns group of agricultural exporters, led by Australia, should have vetoed the round but was foolishly browbeaten into doing the decent thing.

Rich countries generally seize the lion's share of trade gains by pushing open trade in growth



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

areas where they have an initial advantage and keeping the door shut on mature markets where poor countries can easily catch up.

Two items left over from the Uruguay round have followed strikingly different courses. A liberal regime was agreed last year for telecommunications, vanguard of the global market. A few months earlier, a long jaw-jaw on shipping

was shelved. All but one of the main trading countries backed freer trade. America, whose enormous shipping market is heavily protected, stood firm and offered nothing. The door stayed shut.

No surprise then that the lead proposal at Geneva this week was a US plan to make software trading on the Internet tariff-free for all time. This is a sensible idea. For once, however, the unwashed demurred, promising only to forgo for a year what they would not have done anyway.

The bureaucratic battle was over what the WTO should do next. The EU wants another all-embracing negotiating round, which depends on everyone having to agree to everything in a great last-minute haggle. America wants a selective approach, to focus on investment and copyrights rather than shipping. Nothing was decided week. They should refuse any liberalisation in any sector before

way, having teamed up with the Cairns group to give food priority.

This will make the distribution of trade gains even more desperate for poorer nations. The new US strategy is to bypass the WTO, target specific objectives, thrash them out with the EU and Japan, then present them to the rest of the world as a *fait accompli*, the civilised rules all must keep or else.

Fortunately, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, prototype of this approach, fell over US investment sanctions against Cuba and Iran. It should not be revived. If developing countries allow the global systems to be skewed any further against them, they will have themselves to blame. They should press first for the WTO, in which they at least have a vote, to be the only arbiter of trade rules, as it was intended to be. They should refuse any liberalisation in any sector before

export subsidies have been cut out of farm markets and before free and normal trade in textiles is actually operating.

Then they should put forward their own agenda, which will ally the IMF and the World Bank system more closely to the WTO. It should include codes of discipline in financial markets to make sense of global free trade and to minimise the cost of disruption that we all have to secure its benefits. And they will need to establish that international help for investment and for improving production standards must be the *quid pro quo* for abjuring protection for new industries and to meet the higher environmental standards rich countries will demand.

Their best allies should be Western multinationals who have a strong interest in local stability and open trade and whose once *naughty activities* in foreign parts are now subject to stern scrutiny at home. It would be a bad day for the West if poor countries had to turn to China and Russia for leadership on trade.

Gates gets wired to Washington as Microsoft anti-trust battle begins



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX

In American politics, money talks. Or so Bill Gates hopes. The software titan and self-confessed Washington innocent now has a political fight on his hands to rival any commercial challenge he has faced. In trying to rewire the intricate political circuitry in his favour, he has at least mastered the first lesson — Microsoft's donations to Republican coffers are rising even more steeply than his learning curve.

About time, too, is the retort from Capitol Hill. The Justice Department, which this week announced a long-expected anti-trust suit against Microsoft, clearly poses a threat to the imminent launch of Windows 98 and to the group's long-term prosperity. But it is Congress that should give Mr Gates real nightmares of harassment without end. More than the Justice Department, Congress is inspired by the spirit of the times — and America is now gripped by a millennial frenzy of trust-busting.

In the past few weeks, there have been signs that Mr Gates is winning small victories in this unfamiliar territory. He has shattered the previously seamless wall of hostility facing him. The strategy boards on which he and his team famously sketch out their dreams might now reflect that he has a tiny chance of an astounding victory — winning Congress so firmly to his cause that it becomes his best weapon against the Justice Department.

For all the sound and fury, the suit launched this week by the Justice Department is not — as it currently stands — about to bring down America's most successful company. In the most part, its scope is limited and well-justified. There is one strand that threat-



Orrin Hatch, left, has seen that Microsoft-bashing could fuel his career, while John McCain is more sympathetic



ens, if mishandled by both the Justice Department and Microsoft, to lead to years of inconclusive inquiries and courtroom scraps: whether Microsoft has written its Internet Explorer into the new Windows 98 operating system in a way that makes it extremely hard for users to install rival versions. No one, not even Microsoft's rivals, wants grey-suited Capitol Hill lawyers to try to design world-beating products, let alone in such a fast-changing field.

But in its focus on Microsoft's marketing practices, the Justice Department is well justified. It has already unearthed an apparently damning e-mail from Bill Gates proposing to offer Intuit, the software company, \$1 million

of business "favours" in return for using Microsoft's Internet Explorer rather than rival Netscape. That inquiry, though, promises to be comparatively clear-cut: the terms on which it might be settled or the kind of penalties imposed spring straightforwardly out of the history of anti-trust actions.

For all the drama of this week's suit, Mr Gates has more reason to worry about the tiers of congressional committees headed by politicians jostling for power and television coverage. Above all, it is Senator Orrin Hatch, the Utah Republican who heads the powerful Judiciary Committee, who has seen that Microsoft-bashing could fuel a decade of a career. But in the

past two weeks, Microsoft's allies have fought back. In one of the most extraordinary — and toe-curling — exchanges ever witnessed on the floor of the Senate, Slade Gorton, the Republican from Microsoft's home state of Washington, engaged Mr Hatch in a jousting match fought with Rolling Stones song titles. Mr Gorton acts as counsel to Trent Lott, Republican leader of the Senate. They are also good friends, while Mr Lott conspicuously failed to support Mr Hatch in several bitter, unrelated tussles last year. The influential *Roll Call* weekly newspaper quoted a senior Republican aide arguing that while Mr Lott and other top Republicans have not committed themselves to

either side of the Microsoft brawl, "I think you may find the leadership coming out in favour of Microsoft. Clearly their sympathies are with Gorton. What's to be gained by having the Justice Department screw with the most successful company of our time?"

In his latest manoeuvre, Mr Gorton is trying to move the Senate's investigation of Microsoft from Hatch's committee to one likely to take a kinder view. He is asking John McCain, a Republican from Arizona who is sympathetic to Gates, to launch his own hearings within the Commerce Committee. Mr McCain, who seems receptive, said provocatively last week that he and Mr Hatch have "different responsibilities. He is more anti-trust. We're more the health of the entire software industry."

From a slow start, Mr Gates has cottoned on to the need to influence this dance. In the past six weeks, Microsoft has given \$99,000 of computer software to the National Republican Senatorial Committee and \$100,000 to the Republican National Committee. It has also given \$21,500 to members of Congress — two thirds to Republicans.

To help to lobby senior Republicans, Microsoft has also hired Haley Barbour, Republican National Committee chairman during the 1996 elections, and Vin Weber, a former congressman and close friend of Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and a top policy adviser from the office of Dick Cheney. Mr Gingrich's deputy. That should help to combat the heavy-hitters mustering against them, including Bob Dole, the former presidential candidate, and Robert Bork, the former Supreme Court nominee. Both now work for Netscape.

Republicans regard Mr Gates' new sophistication with delight. The passage of the mammoth 1996 Telecommunications Bill was a tragedy for party treasurers; they may have found a new cash cow to help to pay for the next elections. But it matters for the US that Mr Gates fights this battle well. The millennium mood of bashing big business is perhaps the inevitable result of the economic boom, and of a rush of huge mergers. But it would be unfortunate if the US carried this ambivalence about corporate success into the next century.

Cars tipped as driving force in digital radio

The difficulty, cost, and potential for embarrassment of unleashing exciting new technology on the world are limitless. One need only look at the CD electric car, the Betamax video recorder, or the eight-track music cartridge of the Seventies.

There are those who believe that digital radio will be doomed to failure too because the expensive receivers provide only marginally better sound than normal radios.

There is, however, a growing opinion that digital radio will be saved by an unlikely white knight: the motoring industry. At least that is the theory at Melody Radio, the London easy-listening station, which is thought to be the first station to be entirely digital.

At present, digital car radios cost about £3,500 and even their ability to deliver near-perfect sound in the most hostile conditions is unlikely to persuade all but the most extravagant to buy them.

The most compelling benefits lie in coupling digital radios with other technologies, such as GSM phones and in-car navigation systems, because the radios can transmit relatively large amounts of data as well as many different channels of music. This means that when radio stations play songs, they can also transmit the name of the artist, track, album and catalogue number, or even pictures, text and graphics.

Electronics companies are designing receivers that incorporate small screens, smart card slots, and miniature mobile phones to allow listeners to order and pay for the music they are listening to.

Radio stations can also

provide advanced electronic programme guides (EPGs) to allow listeners to find stations according to what kind of music they play.

Digital broadcasting can also be used to update the maps that are stored on CD-Roms for in-car navigation systems. In other words, the motoring industry is in a unique position to kick-start the digital radio industry.

Only one problem remains: keeping a driver's attention on the road.

□ FITNESS clubs in the US are trying to lure couch potatoes by providing an array of advanced in-gym entertainment.

At a cost of about \$1,200 (£300) each, the clubs can mount PC units on their exercise bikes and step machines, giving access to the Internet and e-mail. The online connection fees are paid for by advertisers.

□ BUSINESS journalists around the world attended the world's first virtual company press briefing yesterday, held by Visteon, the spare parts division of Ford. Questions were by e-mail, and the company said the biggest problem was the time differences around the world.



THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

CHRIS AYRES

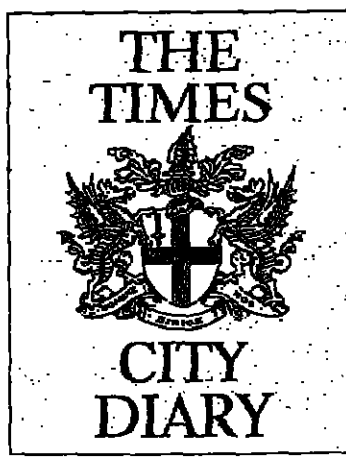
Camelot joust

NOT SINCE British Airways whipped its advertising account away from Saatchi & Saatchi in the wake of the firing of Maurice (now Lord) Saatchi, has there been the prospect of a bitter head-to-head between the new Saatchi agency, M&C, and the old. But Camelot's "review" of the £20 million-a-year National Lottery account promises to be just such a scrap.

For I hear that M&C Saatchi is one of the shortlisted companies pitching for the business, and leading the

team will be Bill Muirhead — taking time off from trying to flog the Millennium Dome — and Jim Duffy. Camelot might find these guys familiar: they were on the original Saatchi & Saatchi team that won the account before defecting to form M&C.

Muirhead, a lugubrious antipodean, will no doubt be up to the task of persuading Camelot that, though the *It Could Be You* advertising campaign was perfect for its era, it is now time for a change of tack.



Plain sailing

TOUGH-TALKING Bob Crandell, who has just stepped down as chairman and chief executive of American Airways, arrives in Ipswich tomorrow at the start of a giant quest. To celebrate his retirement he, his wife and two able Suffolk seamen are to sail his yacht across the Atlantic. The boat has been designed by Crandell as an experiment in technology. An avid "downsizer", he believes the vessel only really needs one crew member to sail it. The crossing promises to be a rough ride, but no rougher than having to negotiate with Bob Ayling.

lyrical about his beloved Wigan. The chairman of JJB Sports, known as Mr Wigan, is hailed as something of a sporting philanthropist after pouring hundreds of thousands of pounds of his own money — and JJB's — into Wigan's football and rugby league clubs. Put sports clubs back at the heart of the community, he preaches. A noble ideal, of course. Sad, then, to bring you news of the departure from Wigan FC of the man who, for many years, sold the club's famous pies to hungry fans at half-price. He has been replaced by a local supplier called Poles Pies of Wigan. The proprietor? One David Whelan.



David Whelan waxes lyrical about his beloved Wigan



Hard to swallow

IN ANOTHER corner of adland, the Co-operative Wholesale Society is to launch its first TV advertising campaign. Never one to part with too much cash, the CWS has decided to use relatives of celebrities, who clearly would be much cheaper than the celebrities themselves.

So from Sunday expect to see your TV screen filled with Scott Stringfellow (son of Peter), Amanda Rayner (daughter of Claire) and Sue Beadle (wife of Jeremy). According to the CWS: "In these commercials the hero is the Co-op's unique, honest and open labelling, which doesn't hide the sometimes unpalatable truth about what we eat." I'll take a large pinch of salt before I swallow that.

Dumbstruck

RUMOURS reach me that Melody FM, the London easy listening station beloved of cabbies, faces a management exodus when Emap takes control next month. Sheila Porritt, Melody's managing director who was hired by Lord Hanson in 1990 to set up the station, yesterday confirmed that she would leave the company and is considering other offers. Sources close to the company say other key management staff will follow.

Friends of Porritt, formerly of Channel 4 and the Radio Authority, say she is unhappy with the plans Emap has to "dumb down" the station. Surely an impossible task.

Pie in the sky

THERE is hardly a dry eye in the house when David Whelan waxes

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Watchdog criticises Isa benchmarking plan

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

AN INVESTORS' watchdog has attacked government plans to benchmark individual savings accounts when they are launched next April. Peter Dean, Investment Ombudsman, said Treasury proposals to "CAT-mark" Isas that it considered good value could lure the unwary into high-risk equity investments that they do not understand. CAT stands for Cost, easy Access and decent Terms. On the equity portion of Isas the Treasury is only planning to apply the CAT-mark to low-cost unit trusts that track UK stock

market indices — such as the FTSE all share and FTSE 100 — and which use a single price instead of the confusing dual bid and offer prices used by most fund managers. At present only Virgin Direct, the fund manager launched by Richard Branson, would win the CAT-mark. Its "Up, up and away" Pep advertising campaign — which played on Mr Branson's high-profile ballooning exploits — has proved successful in attracting new investors. However, there are concerns that many people have bought into a soaring stock market and do not fully appreciate the downward turn that

their funds would have to take in a stock market crash. A government endorsement — which the CAT-mark would effectively become — would only make matters worse, experts fear. Delivering his annual report yesterday Mr Dean said: "The CAT-mark will presumably be conditional on a warning being given about future performance. But one must have some misgivings about the headlong rush into investments that people don't understand. A lot of people don't understand equities." Mr Dean repeated concerns that plans for a single Ombudsman scheme under the new Fin-

ancial Services Authority, which has statutory powers, could backfire. He said: "We provide a swift alternative to courts — the last thing we want to do is a formal court procedure — this would lead to delays and expense." Mr Dean received 299 complaints about investment companies in the year to March 31, a 20 per cent rise on last year. Most of the cases involved poor administration by Pep managers swamped by increased investor demand. Compensation totalled £166,465 last year, down £95,414 on the previous year. Only half of the complaints against fund managers were upheld.

BUCK May North reception Leisure (the Vi Her ited 7 Schoo Head Baum The Prudh Door) was 1 Prudh Her tourc Barde excav new 1 air to the D (Mr R The tain Comn Royal Deven CLAR May: Press as L Elizab ST JA May Color Regir Lisun son appol ficat ion a Flecti appol (Mr R) noon

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Spending spree ahead for Land Securities

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

LAND SECURITIES, the property owner and developer, yesterday embarked on a spending programme that could see it pay out up to £1 billion over the next five years. It is already committed to spending £650 million, mostly on rebuilding inner city shopping centres, but the company said other projects — including tackling Bowater House in Knightsbridge — could see its outlay rise to £1 billion. The company is coming to

the end of a £420 million building and refurbishment programme focused on office properties. The new £650 million will be used to bring on 4.5 million sq ft of retail space. The spending plan targets shopping and leisure developments in Sunderland, Birmingham, York, Exeter and Canterbury. Ian Henderson, managing director, said current purchase prices for commercial property were unattractively "strong" and that the group had decided to use its financial resources to develop those sites it acquired in the early 1990s when prices were lower.

Lego adds media subsidiary to brand

BY CHRIS AVRES

LEGO, the Danish toy company, yesterday launched a European subsidiary to push its brand into software, film, television, book and music markets. Lego Media International has been set up with £20 million (£12.5 million) of development capital and it hopes to account for about £100 million of retail sales by the end of 1999. Lego itself, which was founded in 1932, had turnover last year of \$1.2 billion.

"Our present emphasis is on development and refurbishment as this should provide better return than is likely to be achieved from acquiring existing investments at current yields," the company said. Land Securities also said that Peter Birch, former chief executive of Abbey National, is to become the company's new chairman. Sir Peter Hunt, who combined the roles of chairman with managing director, died suddenly last December. Sir Peter was to split the top jobs this year. Mr Birch has been a non-executive director at Land Securities for a year.

The subsidiary's first product is expected to be a computer game that allows children to build virtual Lego creations. Story books are also expected, and Lego Media is also working on a 26-part animated television series to be screened in the autumn of 1999.

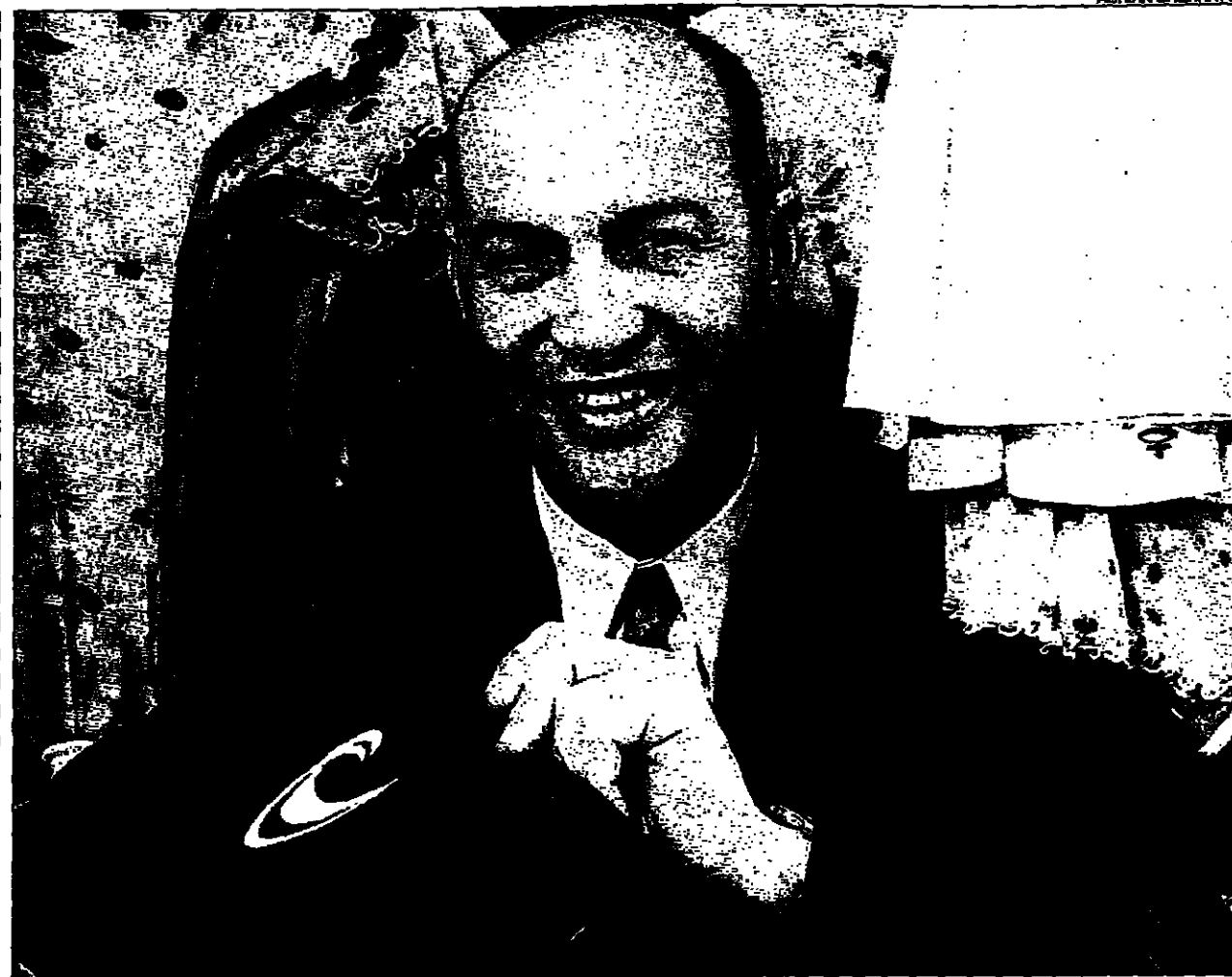
News of the spending plans and the new chairman coincided with the release of net asset values figures which showed that Land Securities' property portfolio is worth more, per share, now than it was at the peak of the last boom in 1990. The company's net asset value per share increased by 18 per cent to 924p from 783p. The previous peak of eight years ago was 879p. Yesterday the shares traded at £10.17, down 5p.

Its central characters will be humans, to get around the Independent Television Commission's guidelines on product placement.

Land Securities also published pre-tax profits that were slightly ahead of analysts' expectations. Taxable profit for the year to March 31 was £266 million, up from £243.8 million. A large part of the pleasant surprise came because of a lower interest bill. A tranche of bonds converted into equity and debt was lowered by £14 million of asset sales. Borrowings were £1.65 billion at March 31, equivalent to gearing of 33 per cent, down from gearing of 45.8 per cent the previous year.

The company continued its long record of increasing dividends. The full-year payment is 28p (27p).

Tempus, page 30



Simon Bentley, chief executive of Blacks Leisure, saw pre-tax profits increase to £13.6 million for the full year

Outdoor pursuits lift Blacks

OUTDOOR pursuits helped Blacks Leisure, the sports chain, to overcome a sharp slowdown in its core fashion stores and lift underlying sales by 5 per cent in the past 11 weeks (Fraser Nelson writes). The erratic weather over Easter had wiped out sales growth in its 80-strong chain of

First Sport shops after an exceptionally strong 1997. This was offset by strong growth in its 40 Blacks Outdoor stores, where underlying sales rose 21 per cent over the same period. The 18 Active Venture stores generated sales growth of 6 per cent.

executive, said the First Sport slowdown was already beginning to reverse. Blacks shares slid 12p to 388½p. Richard Ratner, an analyst at Butterfield Securities, said: "Blacks has shown that when the weather gets tough, it can rely on its outdoor stores." The company made an

expected pre-tax profit of £13.6 million (£10.2 million) in the year to February 28, on like-for-like sales which increased by 7 per cent — and by 9 per cent in its First Sport stores. Earnings were 28.2p (22.6p) per share, and the dividend rises to 5.5p (4p) with a final 3.75p due on October 2.

Derbyshire to be 'ambassador' for Glenmorangie

BY FRASER NELSON

PETER DERBYSHIRE, managing director of Glenmorangie, is to relinquish his role at the helm of the Scotch whisky producer after just three years.

The company said Mr Derbyshire, 43, has asked to become a "roving ambassador" for Glenmorangie — advising the company as a non-executive director.

His new role will involve travelling to countries in Asia and the Far East to sound out new markets for the whisky. He is succeeded by Paul Neep, marketing director. Geoffrey Maddrell remains non-executive chairman. The company revealed that it had overcome a £300,000 hit from stronger sterling to turn in another year of record profits. Pre-tax profits rose 8 per cent to £8.4 million in the year to March 31. Sales rose 5 per cent to £48.5 million, after a



Maddrell remains in post

Trafford Park rejects £146m bid by Green

BY GEORGE SIVELL

TRAFFORD Park Estates, the North West property group, has rejected the £146 million bid that it received this week from Green, the Dublin property company.

Trafford said that the bid undervalued the company and failed to reflect the prospects for its portfolio. As part of its defence Trafford Park has called in Lambert Smith Hampton to carry out a current portfolio valuation.

Trafford also said that it would allow its bid for Barlow, a fellow North West property group, to lapse. Green made its bid conditional on Trafford dropping its £26.7 million bid for Barlow. Trafford Park shares rose 4½p to 195½p. Green, Ireland's largest property group, remained unchanged at 46½p and Barlow rose ½p to 61p.

Trafford said: "In order to give shareholders a better understanding of the value of the Trafford Park portfolio the directors have requested the company's valuers, Lambert Smith Hampton, to provide a current valuation, which will comply with the requirements of the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers." Trafford Park took the unusual step yesterday of dissociating itself from recent comment about the value of its portfolio. The group, however, is likely to draw attention to a number of strategic holdings of land in the North West of England as part of its bid defence.

Hambro Insurance advances

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

HAMBRO Insurance Services went out with a bang yesterday recording a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits in its last set of financial results before it passes to Lindsey Morden Group of Canada.

Underlying pre-tax profits in the 12 months to March 31 rose from £8 million to £9.6 million. Including the £6 million profit from selling a majority stake in Beale Dobie, the traded endowment market-maker, last year, and other exceptional items, the pre-tax figures advanced by 38 per cent from £10.9 million to £15.1 million.

As a result, earnings per share rocketed 87 per cent to 17.66p. However, in view of the impending sale, the company said that it would not be paying a final dividend.

Both of HIS's main businesses have prospered. Pre-tax profits from the legal and assistance services that it provides to insurers rose nearly £1 million to £5.4 million on a £1.6 million increase in turnover to £25.2 million. Turnover in loss adjusting was up £3.7 million to £51.1 million, boosting pre-tax profits £600,000 to £4.1 million.

UK to oppose eurobond tax plan

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is heading for a clash with Brussels over the European Commission's plan, announced yesterday, to include income from eurobonds in a directive that is aimed at forcing EU residents to pay tax on savings outside their home states.

Mario Monti, the Internal Market Commissioner, insisted that there could be no exemption for eurobonds in the planned directive that will enforce either a 20 per cent withholding tax on savings income or require banks to report the income to the tax authorities in the depositor's home country.

The Government backs the measure in principle but is worried about the impact on the bond market, fearing investors might flee European bonds, damaging the competitiveness of capital markets. Gordon Brown told the EU Finance Council that Britain could not support such a scheme, which was rejected under British pressure when it was first proposed in 1989.

Signor Monti said it was hard to define eurobonds legally and he played down the likely impact for the bond market, pointing out that "very few eurobonds are held by individuals, so it is a very limited problem". The Government is consulting financial institutions before deciding the approach to adopt when the tax directive comes up for approval by the Council of Ministers in the autumn.

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George
Leading Japanese traders warn on outlook
Together

George Sivell looks at the fallout from the South-East Asian economic crisis

Leading Japanese traders warn on outlook

JAPAN'S top general trading companies warned the market that their business climate would remain cloudy this year because of a long-running economic stagnation at home and because of the financial and political woes across Asia.

The nation's six biggest trading houses, known as *sogoshosha*, handle a wide variety of goods and services ranging from noodles to missiles. They said recent political unrest in Indonesia had made them particularly cautious.

The six trading houses, Sumitomo Corp, Itochu Corp, Marubeni Corp, Mitsubishi Corp, Mitsui, and Nissho Iwai Corp, had a total of 690.7 billion yen (€3.1 billion) of loans, investments and guarantees in Indonesia as of March 31. They mostly forecast their profits rising only marginally or even falling during the present business year.

The six companies, meanwhile, had a total of 1.16 trillion yen worth of such commitments in five South-East Asian countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and South Korea.

In the past business year, which ended on March 31, the trading houses posted a gloomy set of results beset with losses on valuations of shareholdings and one-off financial restructuring charges.

Muneo Shigematsu, managing director of Sumitomo Corp, said: "In 1997-98, the effect of the Asian crisis was felt in the latter half of the year, but it will take its toll throughout this business year."

Mr Shigematsu said that the Asian crisis - which was reignited by recent political unrest in Indonesia - would eat into the company's operating profit by some four to five billion yen.

Of the six firms, Nissho Iwai alone remained a little confident, saying its business in Indonesia mainly focused on exporting goods to Japan. Nissho said: "We believe Indonesia will increase exports to obtain foreign currencies, so that the impact will be limited."

Toyota and Honda accelerate as Nissan seeks to avoid stalling

TOYOTA and Honda earned record profits in the past financial year, but Nissan has set out a sweeping package of cuts and rationalisations in an effort to maintain financial health.

Toyota Motor Corp said its latest business year was helped by a weak yen and strength in the American market, but added that profits were expected to slip in the current year.

The company is Japan's biggest carmaker and said consolidated net profits in the year to March 31 grew 17.7 per cent to a record 454.35 billion yen (€2 billion).

By contrast, Nissan Motor Co, Japan's second-biggest carmaker, announced that it had revised down its earlier earnings estimate, and now predicts that it will post a consolidated net loss, against its earlier estimate of a profit of 16 billion yen. In the previous year Nissan reported profits for the first time in five years.

Toyota said that last year its profits before tax rose slightly to 625.64 billion yen. In the current year profits before tax were expected to fall 13.7 per cent to 540 billion yen.

Analysts said that Toyota's profits this year would be hit by sluggish sales at home and economic difficulties in South-East Asia, including Indonesia, where Toyota has a large car-producing joint venture and is the top-selling brand.

Yoshikazu Hanawa, president of Nissan Motor, meanwhile, confirmed that the

company would freeze new overseas projects and focus on America. He also said that the company would reduce the number of its basic car models from 25 to 14 by the year 2000-01 and to ten in 2002-03.

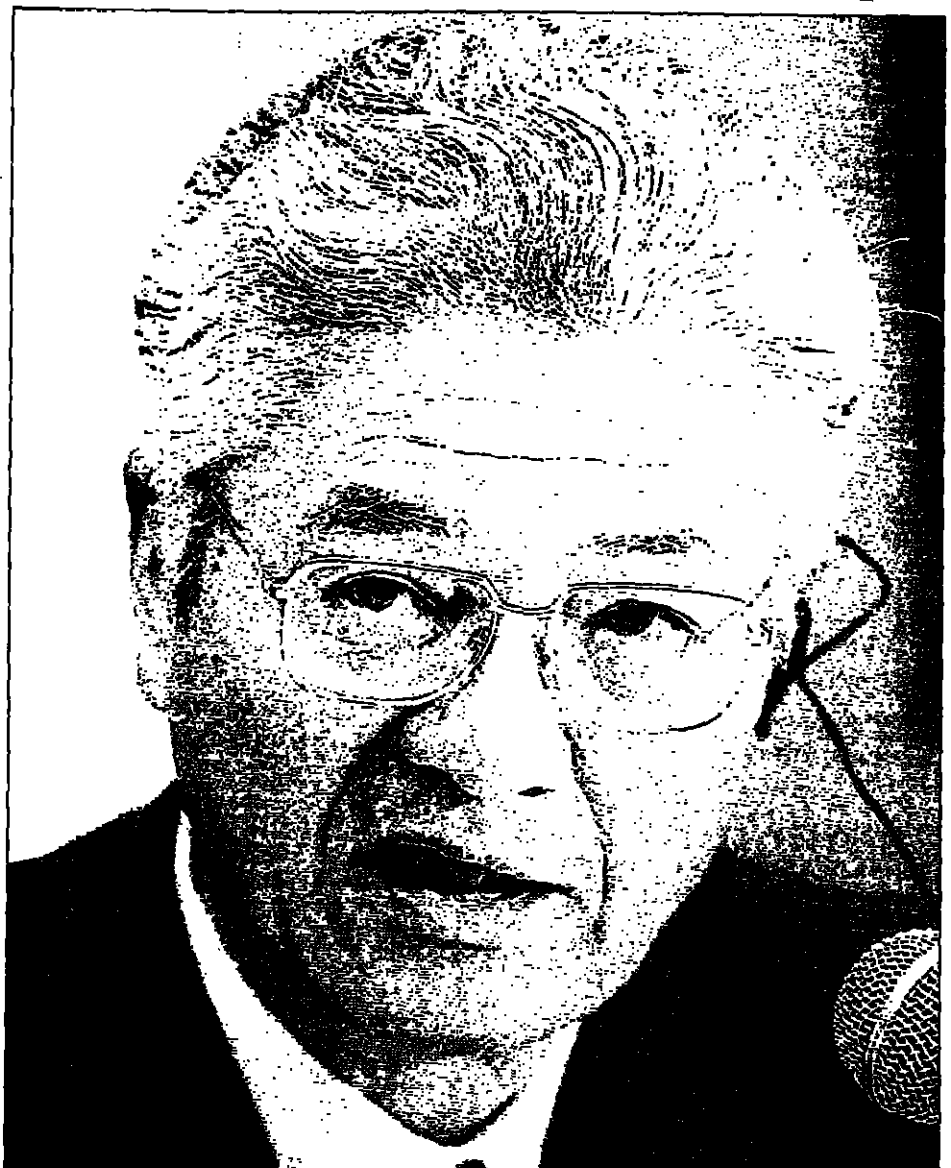
In America Nissan is to restructure its operations and cut car production costs. The company also flagged up the disposal of some of its securities and property holdings. Nissan aims to be profitable on total global sales of 2.7 million vehicles, it said.

In Asia there will be a freeze on new projects at Nissan for the time being, and business in the region will be developed with a medium to long-term focus on Thailand and Taiwan. The company aims to cut overall production costs by 400 billion yen by the year to March 2001.

Honda, meanwhile, reported record results for the past year and expects another record-breaking performance in the current year on the back of brisk American sales. Honda, Japan's number three carmaker, raised net profits by 18 per cent to 260.6 billion yen (€1.2 billion) in the year to March.

The company expects profits to rise 3.6 per cent in the current 1998-99 fiscal year to 270 billion yen as it continues to enjoy strong sales of its Accord model in America.

Honda said that it expected its domestic vehicle sales in the current business year to climb 3 per cent from the previous year to 780,000 units, and its overseas vehicle sales to increase by 3.4 per cent to 1.64 million units.



Yoshikazu Hanawa yesterday unveiled a sweeping package of cuts at Nissan

Developers face squeeze as HK property price war intensifies

HONG KONG'S big property developers are squeezing their margins close to the limit in a price war that is forcing analysts to downgrade their earnings forecasts.

Cheung Kong (Holdings) and Sun Hung Kai Properties shocked the market this week by drastically reducing apartment prices in Tsing Yi, in the New Territories, in an effort to shore up sales.

"It's a bloodbath," said Henry Kwong, analyst at Merrill Lynch. "I don't think it makes a lot of commercial sense for these two big boys to be undercutting each other."

Cheung Kong said on Monday it would launch a first batch of flats at its Terra Verde residential development built above the Tsing Yi railway station, at an average price of about HK\$4.147 (€319) per sq ft. The market had expected the flats to be priced at about HK\$4,500 per sq ft.

Sun Hung Kai Properties retaliated by slashing prices at its Mount Haven development in Tsing Yi to HK\$3,750 a sq ft, down from the HK\$4,280 asked for a first batch of 268 flats in April.

Yesterday, Henderson Land Development said it would offer flats at its Dawning Views development in Fanling, in the New Territories, for HK\$2,811 per sq ft.

"Prices are close to development costs. There is not too much room for developers to go down," said Herbert Lau, an analyst at Vickers Ballas.

Prices have fallen by 40 per cent from last year's peaks and Mr Lau said he was slashing his earnings forecasts for property developers by about 5 per cent for 1998 and 8 to 10 per cent for 1999. Lau believes the sector will report a drop of about 10 to 15 per cent in 1998 earnings and a further drop of up to 15 per cent in 1999.

Other developers may be forced to join in, unable to delay sales of properties as they meet debt repayment deadlines, some analysts said.

"Even if they make a loss, they may sell the units because

interest burdens are heavy," said Patrick Yiu at Dharmala Securities. "I think prices will be further reduced."

But Andrew Taylor, property analyst at Paribas Asia Equity, said other developers would be foolish to step in. "These are the three biggest players and anyone else who tries to play this game is going to get very badly burnt."

Mr Taylor said he expected Henderson Land to report a 26 per cent drop in net profits for 1998 to about HK\$7.2 billion. "Henderson is fairly indicative of the lot," he said.

Malaysia heads into recession

MALAYSIA'S economy, struggling in Asia's regional financial crisis, is heading towards recession because an austerity drive to slow growth is beginning to overshoot targets.

Economists said that financially troubled companies, falling industrial production, a smaller than expected recovery in exports and declining domestic demand were all squeezing the Malaysian economy.

Last week the Government reported that industrial production fell 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of the year compared with the year-ago period. The manufacturing sector accounts for 35 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and services 45 per cent.

After the latest industrial production numbers were released, some research houses forecast a 1-3 per cent contraction in GDP this year, down from a consensus forecast of 0.8 per cent growth last month.

The Government has forecast GDP growth of 2.3 per cent after two downward revisions from the original projection of 7 per cent. GDP expanded by 7.6 per cent last year. "It is just the beginning of a steep downturn in the economy," said one analyst.

Hyundai to make 8,000 redundant

HYUNDAI MOTOR, South Korea's largest carmaker, plans to lay off more than 8,000 workers, triggering an immediate union threat of strikes to block the manoeuvre.

The company aims to shed 8,189 workers, 18 per cent of its workforce, to maintain competitiveness. Hyundai said the process would begin in June and be completed by the end of the year and that it would notify the Labour Ministry of the plan soon.

But leaders of the company's mili-

tary labour union balked at the plan and said workers may take strike action unless it was repealed.

The union said: "We are considering strikes as countermeasures. We believe it is a tactic [by the company] to induce more voluntary retirees by creating an atmosphere of extreme insecurity."

Last month Hyundai Motor said it had lowered its vehicle production target for this year to 900,000 units from an earlier 1.5 million units, but

would almost certainly have to lower the target further.

Earlier in April the company said it needed to cut its payroll by about 30 per cent to remain competitive. The Government has told companies to speed up voluntary restructuring projects to improve their competitiveness as part of nationwide efforts to overcome its economic crisis.

A plunge in the value of the won, the South Korean currency, against the dollar forced the country to accept a

record-breaking \$58.35 billion (€35.8 billion) bailout package led by the International Monetary Fund in December. It was a precondition of IMF help for the world's eleventh-largest economy that the country end its job-for-life attitude to employment.

Union members across the country have vowed to fight against possible massive layoffs, saying that companies were resorting to redundancies while neglecting calls for improvement in their management practices.

ACCOUNTANCY

Together we can change the world

Frank Harding on IFAC's role in helping developing nations



Frank Harding seeks to develop accounting services

In a speech to the World Congress of Accountants in October, the World Bank President James Wolfensohn challenged the international accounting profession to do more to bolster its capabilities and capacity in developing nations and those whose economies are in transition. It is a challenge that the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), which represents professional groups in more than 100 countries, accepts.

While I acknowledge that the accounting profession has a role to play in enhancing the availability of accounting services, the task is large and multifaceted. We must harness the resources that IFAC, its member bodies and their members - accountants around the world - can provide with those of the international development agencies in a co-ordinated, complementary manner that best serves the public interest.

The development agencies have contacts with governments and government agencies. They have funds, some expertise and experience. While the profession has limited government contacts, it has contacts with those already working in the field and, above all, a broad range of available expertise and experience.

The international agencies, eg. the IMF and the EU,

already fund projects to develop and enhance the availability of accounting services.

The projects are undertaken by, among others, consultants from IFAC's member bodies and the major accounting and consulting firms. Frequently they are unaware of similar projects under way, sometimes in the same country. Often the wheel is reinvented when a standard approach and project could be used.

We have to stop this waste. We must ensure that those resources are co-ordinated and used wisely. That said, we must recognise that a "one size fits all" approach will not yield the desired results. We must work together in order to develop strategies that best serve the needs of individual nations and clusters of nations facing similar issues.

The challenge is daunting. More than 100 countries need some form of assistance and it cannot all be administered at once. At the same time, the urgency is critical. For developing nations, the lack of accountants, accounting systems and government support represent obstacles to growth. These are a must if these countries are to continue to receive aid from development agencies and attract the investment they so desperately need. Further, enhancing the quality of reporting will lead to lower costs for funds provided by the

public and private sectors. While development agencies need to provide funding for accounting initiatives, they can only act if the nations request this assistance.

However, the agencies can pressure governments to upgrade their accounting systems by demanding greater accountability as a proviso for obtaining funds.

IFAC has taken the lead in addressing these issues. It called a meeting in January in Washington of representatives

Barriers in bringing members to account

It is a lonely business regulating the accounting profession. First you have not pay for a system that it is convinced their chaps do not need. Thirdly, you are waiting for the Government to fulfil its election pledge and announce reforms. And fourthly, being an efficient outfit, there are only two of you who make up the organisation.

It is not surprising that it is a lonely business.

But the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which published its annual report this week, is optimistic. And Chris Dickson, the scheme's executive counsel, is not someone who is going to allow life to get him down. There are currently investigations in progress into BCCI, Maxwell, Astra Holdings, Polly Peck, Wickes and Resort Hotels. That is enough to keep anyone busy.

The majority of those cases date from the last recession, and possibly we are already on the downslope of the next business cycle heading for more corporate scandals. It is not surprising that the public or more precisely Austin Mitchell, makes a fuss about the time it takes accountants to discipline their own.

In the case of BCCI, it was the Court of Appeal that stopped the investigation in its tracks until everyone else had had their say. In the case of Maxwell, there were so many accounting firms involved that finding one without a conflict of interest was difficult. And, in any case, the lawyers had delayed everything for several years by trying to put that investigation on ice.

As for Polly Peck, there is a legal battle going on to decide whether members of the English ICA who operate in northern Cyprus should co-operate with the investigators or whether local legislation bars them from passing on the relevant documents.

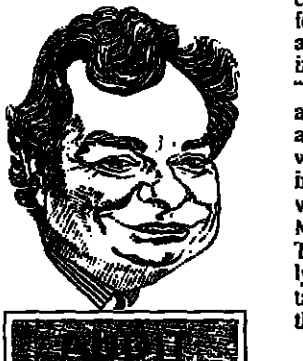
So it is not surprising that it all takes a long time. But there are several things which would help to hasten the process. The first would be greater co-operation from the accounting firms themselves. When Mr Dickson joined the JDS from the Serious Fraud Office in January he was surprised by the absence of statutory powers. They cannot haul people, or documents, in. "Everything has to come by persuasion," he said.

And, human nature being what it is, that can take time. This is why the Government's slow pace on the proposals for a new profession-wide independent review board is so disheartening. "The new scheme would enable us to exchange information and documents with other regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission in America, and that would be of enormous benefit," Mr Dickson said.

The second measure that would speed things up would be better co-operation from overseas accounting firms. The Ferranti case was not necessarily typical. Mr Dickson said, but it did become farcical because of the complications of joint auditors. KPMG in New York refused to allow the JDS team to photocopy the relevant documents or take them to Britain. Instead, they insisted that the team could only make notes. It is such incidents that undermine any idea that global firms are truly global.

Then there is the need for greater investigatory expertise. The Maxwell case was effectively off-limits for any of the Big Six firms, all of whom had conflicts of interest. As the report says: "It proved difficult to identify a firm of sufficient capacity and with relevant expertise which had no conflict of interest arising from other work related to the collapse of Maxwell-related companies. The work of the firm currently providing assistance has taken substantially longer than had been anticipated."

As the Big Six is on the verge of becoming the Big Five, this situation will become worse. "Investigating an audit disaster is something which may be very difficult to do without using



ROBERT BRUCE

Words to the wise

IAN DAVISON paid many tributes when he received the Founding Societies' Award, the profession's version of the Nobel prize, last week. But it was what he said about Leonard Spacek, the man who built Arthur Andersen into an international firm, that showed the Andersen insistence on never being beaten.

Spacek was once so furious with his treatment at the

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

hands of what he saw as the establishment figures in the profession in New York that he announced: "If I had had a taste for wood, I would have eaten my way across that table." But even more to Davison's taste was Spacek's method of public speaking. "He spoke in torrents," Davison told his audience, "with every member of the audience urging him on to

find the verb and end the sentence."

That figures

THE annual report and accounts of the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, which metes out punishment in cases of accountancy scandal, is suitably forbidding. For a start, its cover is a mass of small groups of numbers. It looks like some-

thing that code-breakers might salivate over. Sadly, the explanation is more prosaic. It seems the designers, knowing JDS was involved with accountants, thought it might like some figures on the front.

Paper chase

DELOITTE & Touche provides an excellent weekly update in the field of Customs

and Excise. In particular it updates clients with VAT decisions and breaking news. But last week clients received more than they bargained for. As this week's cover note says: "We would add our apologies for the problems caused by a technical fault in our fax system which resulted in some of you receiving a large amount of blank sheets of paper." VAT inspectors are braced for huge claims based on the escalating demand for rolls of fax paper.

ROBERT BRUCE

Irre-rotting most ment. The voice o not 'creat' first mrc rises is far right

ELL

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

Advertisement for 'tella' featuring the slogan 'tella me it's easy' and contact information: 'Call Tella and we'll tell you more about telcom solutions for business: 0800 652 5000'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'At a Tr Co in ur m'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'L p d s'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'K'.

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Chichester makes a meal of it

PAGE 39



POP
The Verve play up a storm in Dublin
PAGE 38



Bacon brought home in some style

A star is reborn

CANNES: Geoff Brown sees a British film about the great painter take the film festival by storm

Last year Cannes celebrated its fiftieth birthday with a collection of films that by and large did not deserve any party hats and champagne. This year things are different. Few of the films in competition have driven the critics to tip up their seats with a bang and make their dash for freedom. True, some directors have disappointed: Nanni Moretti, who won many hearts five years ago with *Dear Diary*, came a minor cropper with *April*, another film diary full of musings on politics and anguish and pride over the birth of his son, but without its predecessor's universal appeal. But other directors have bounced back smiling. John Boorman was last represented by *Beyond Rangoon* — a better title would have been *Beyond Salvation*. Happily, his new contender, *The General*, is his best film in years: dynamic and funny, with much for an audience to think about. What, above all, do we make of the title character, Martin Cahill, a buccaneering Irish criminal whose buffoonish capers went hand in hand with ruthless violence, and who died in a storm of IRA bullets in 1994?

John Boorman's new film is his best in years?

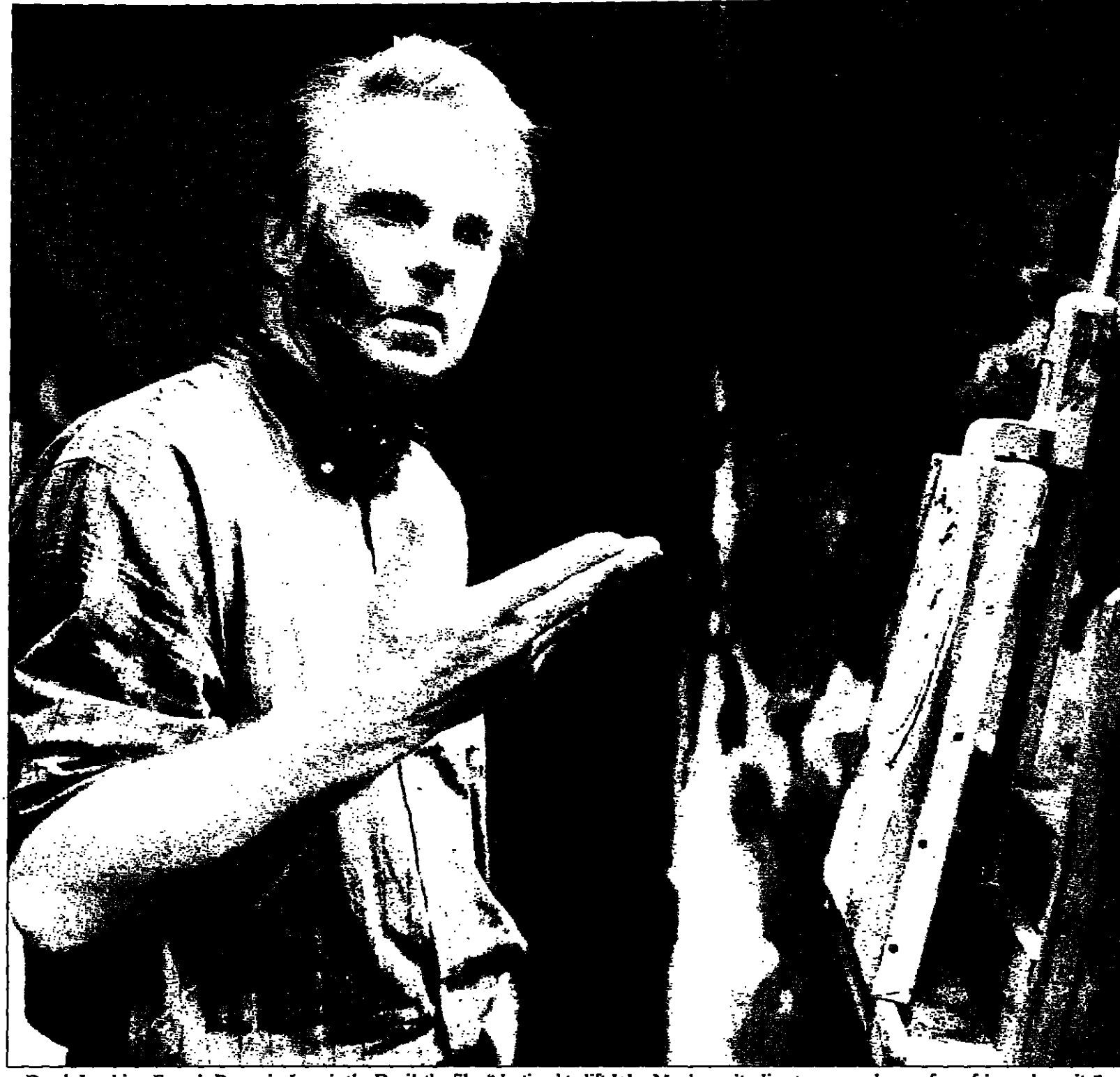
do Bertolucci, David Cronenberg and Nicolas Roeg. His own way with the movie camera proves unexceptional, although there is something daring, I suppose, about making a film that appears to have no identifiable audience.

One moment we laugh as he and his gang outfit authority; the next we cringe as he nails a suspected traitor's hand to the snooker table. Brendan Gleeson's central performance is unforgettable, humanising the monster without taking away any of his fangs. More on this most stimulating film when it opens in London soon. Last year at Cannes the *Spice Girls* were on hand to beat the drum for Cool Britannia. Somehow, Culture Secretary Chris Smith and Film Minister Tom Clarke have not set the flashbulbs going to the same extent.

But British cinema is still out and about. Deep down in the market you can find, if you dare, the latest romp from Michael Winner, *Parting Shots*. Up in the official festival, you can feast eyes and mind on *Love is the Devil*, a film destined to lift John

In this adaptation of Walker Hamilton's novel, Christian Bale plays a simple young adult who escapes from an ogreish stepfather by wandering the west country with John Hurt, burying wildlife killed by cars. Is *Little Animals* a family film for the green at heart? Not simple enough. Something thoughtful for the art houses? Too wet and whimsical. Better luck next time. Jeremy, if there is one.

Luckily other new directors have made a stronger impression. And none more so than Erick Zonca, a 41-year-old Frenchman whose competition entry *The Dream Life of Angels* found more universal favour than the work of France's established directors (less old-fashioned craftsmanship and more substance would certainly have strengthened Claude Miller's *Class Trip*). Zonca, however, found



Derek Jacobi as Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*, the film "destined to lift John Maybury, its director, up and away from fringe obscurity"

the perfect balance, keeping his directorial presence quiet and allowing his characters to bloom. They are young, ruthless, barely scraping a living in Lille. Isa is spunky, Marie sullen; and we watch riveted as their friendship rises and falls. Both share the flat of a woman and her daughter confined to hospital after a car crash. The woman dies; the

daughter lingers in a coma. Isa begins to feel a kinship, and sits by her bedside; but Marie just gets eaten up by negativity and a fruitless affair. Elodie Bouchez and Natacha Régnier make the girls' relationship very credible; and whatever miseries are opened up, the film throbs wondrously with compassion and understanding.

extremely modest technical resources. But there are plenty of ideas bouncing around: ideas about creativity, spirituality and death, the borderlines between art and reality, and other Bergman favourites. The main character, too, is familiar: he is Bergman's Uncle Carl, an inventor introduced as a hospital psychiatric patient obsessed with Schubert in the mid-1920s. In the best part of the film he ventures into the provinces with his new creation: a presentation of silent films with actors standing behind the screen, mouthing appropriate dialogue. Fuses blow and start a fire: there is also a ghostly female clown to contend with. Börje Ahlstedt heads a notable cast of Bergman regulars and the director's fans, if not wider

audiences, should find quiet rewards if and when the film surfaces in Britain. Happiness, the new film by Todd Solondz, should certainly reach our screens, although a little trimming would help this 140-minute trawl through the anguish and sexual longings of three New Jersey sisters, friends and neighbours. In *Welcome to the*

Dollhouse, Solondz displayed keen insights into a teenager's ugly adolescence. Here he digs deeper and risks upsetting audiences with the blunt comic coverage of private fantasies, masturbation and paedophilia. A happy film? Far from it. But you keep watching, half embarrassed, half enthralled. So far, this is the film that has kept the critics talking.

ALIEN RESURRECTION

Fox Pathe. 18. 1997
THE last *Alien* sequel ended with Sigourney Weaver perishing at her own hands. But seeing is not believing so, 200 years later, she is cloned from a blood sample to fight off a new generation of alien beasts. Weaver is a force to reckon with as the lithe, no-nonsense Ripley. Winona Ryder is less effective as the mysterious mechanic in a gang of mercenaries who dock in space with a cargo of frozen humans. French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet provides a novel amount of bizarre humour, although ghoulish spectacle ultimately supplants the early jokes, which is rather a pity. A rental release.

REGENERATION

Fox Pathe. 15. 1997
WELCOME to Craiglockart Military Hospital in Edinburgh in 1917, where shell-

NEW ON VIDEO

shocked victims of the First World War come under the care of Jonathan Pryce's Dr Rivers, a man increasingly disturbed himself. Among his charges are Siegfried Sassoon (James Wilby), Wilfred Owen (Simon Bunce) and a lad rendered mute by the trenches (Jonny Lee Miller). Gillies MacKinnon's powerful and poignant film haunts the mind with its re-creation of wartime horrors and the legacy they leave. Available to rent.

THE TANGO LESSON

Artificial Eye. PG. 1997
A BRAVE and enticing film from Sally Potter, chronicling her obsession with the tango. She plays herself, as does tango luminary Pablo Veron, who becomes her teacher. For Potter, the tango becomes a way to explore the dynamics of power, and of all love relationships and creative endeavours. The metaphor, though, is never belaboured as the impassioned pair dance away.

THIEVES LIKE US

Warner. 15. 1997
DOOMED lovers and social misfits: we have been here before. But Robert Altman directs with simple intensity and an amused eye, while Keith Carradine and Shelley Duvall seem as natural as the Mississippi locations. New to video.

Geoff Brown

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Placed alongside this, Ingmar Bergman's *In the Presence of a Clown*, showing out of competition, looks somewhat bloodless — although after such a long career the Swedish master, 80 in July, may easily be forgiven a few hardened arteries. The visual texture is unusually threadbare; this is a television play, filmed with

WARM AND COMPASSIONATETM
— Daily Telegraph

DELICIOUS, UNEXPECTED TREATTM
— The Mirror

GENUINELY MOVING COMEDYTM
— Guardian Guide

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NEW MOVIES: James Christopher warms to the Hollywood satire *The Real Blonde*



Bridgette Wilson is not *The Real Blonde* — which causes her no end of heartbreak

At the heart of Tom DiCillo's playful comedy, *The Real Blonde*, there is a cynical truth that cuts to the bone of the movie industry. You can almost feel it as the opening credits pore over a glossy portrait of a nubile, mostly naked, model. Her image suddenly shatters like a pane of glass to reveal a street scene in Manhattan where an elderly black woman has her dog stolen by a tramp. It is this ludicrous gap between image and reality that obsesses Joe, an actor played by Matthew Modine.

Joe cultivates the kind of idealism about "real" acting that makes real people cringe. At 35, a jobbing upmarket waiter without a single meaningful acting credit to his name, Joe is the scourge of all the fakes in the entertainment business. He scorns Bob, his English friend who lands a leading role in a soap opera. He loudly trashes sentimental films in public and pontificates across the breakfast table to his girlfriend Mary (the wonderful Catherine Keener) about how women are exploited. Not only does he seem sublimely oblivious to the fact that it is her job as a high-fashion make-up artist that pays most of the rent, but in his heart of hearts he probably wants a piece of this artificial pie as well.

The comedy resides on many levels, but mostly in the fact that DiCillo clearly cherishes Modine's hapless, morally charged hero. On the streets Joe is something of a white knight, nearly getting himself shot when he comes to the aid of a woman. But in the audition room his integrity is snapped into a pile of twigs by a ferocious casting agent. Forced to swallow his morals for the sake of the role, Joe finds himself bouncing around in a bathing suit on a fake beach with 50 other beefcake extras in a Madonna (note: not a natural blonde) video. Being Joe, however, he thinks he has been hand-picked. The well-worn truth is that in a world obsessed with the artificial, ideals means nothing at all.

The technical ingenuity of DiCillo's film is the way he stylishly cross-stitches Joe's life with those of his peers who are making it, or faking it, as artists, actors and models. The cameo performances are razor sharp: Christopher Lloyd as a camp maître d'; Kathleen Turner as a vampish fashion photographer. But it's Modine's Joe provides the spine to the satire of *The Real Blonde*. Maxwell Caulfield's oily Bob is his soul.

This an inspired piece of casting. Blessed with a sleazy arrogance, Caulfield's insouciant Bob lands a leading part on top soap opera *Passion Crest* as the dastardly Dirk. While those around him find spiritual fulfilment in Disney films and horoscopes, Bob aches for a woman with real blonde hair. However his (blonde) co-star (Daryl Han-

Shiny on top and dark at the roots

are rightly booted off stage. Ailio, who doesn't know much better, is suitably impressed.

It rapidly becomes clear that Mok is on a monorail to deep trouble. Up to his eyeballs in gambling debts and sleeping with the local gangster's girlfriend, he is forced into a paper wedding to stave off his creditors. By the time Ailio rumbles that all is not right with Mok's world, Allouache's shaky, hand-held camera has moved seamlessly from a comic clash of subcultures to a clear-eyed portrait of local racism and tarnished dreams.

Shot mainly from Ailio's upbeat perspective, this portrait of those who still dream of Algiers and those who have long buried their memories and moved on is a modest, subtitled success.

In my capacity as a drama critic, I have spent far too long polishing my resentment of "cutting edge" shows in far-flung fringe theatres to warm to Michael Lindsay-Hogg's experimental film, *Guy*.

A young female film-maker finds an unsuspecting stranger called Guy on a street corner and follows him relentlessly, camera on shoulder, for no perceptible reason. "Why are you following me around? Do I know you? What does your boyfriend think?" Guy (Vincent D'Onofrio) responds — all reasonable questions which is more than can be said for most of the script. But, for reasons better known to himself, Guy submits to this insane intrusion and lets her follow him around and ruin his life.

The idea of a fly-in-the-face documentary might be fleeting, interesting, but by the time we have followed Guy into the lavatory and watched him urinate what little sympathetic piece of voyeurism goes down the plughole.

Which brings us neatly to Manny Coto's execrable science fiction film, *Star Kid*. Here the 12-year-old Spencer (Joseph Mazello) gets to beat up the school bully and save his would-be girlfriend when a "cyborg suit" falls from outer space. Climbing into the suit gives Spencer supernatural powers.

However, he also has to save the Earth from various animated pieces of alien rubbish before his overworked father and feisty older sister welcome him back to the bosom of his All-American family. What I want to know is — isn't it about time that the Martians won?

The Real Blonde

Virgin Haymarket 15, 110 mins
Stylish satire that's definitely not fake
Blues Brothers 2000

Odeon Marble Arch PG, 124 mins
Updated cult musical with same old tunes

Salut Cousin!

Curzon Phoenix 15, 110 mins
Grainy portrait of Algerians in Paris

Guy

ABC Piccadilly 15, 94 mins
Insane candid camera

Star Kid

Warner West End PG, 100 mins
Dire sci-fi fantasy with rubber aliens

dances like Michael Jackson; and Joe Morton who, for the purposes of racial harmony, is Elwood's long-lost black stepbrother, Cabel.

Cabel doesn't come easy. He is the Commander of the Illinois State Police, and has the kind of interest in Elwood that Chief Inspector Dreyfus entertained for Inspector Clouseau.

Predictably, much of John Landis's film is lifted from his original template. Fresh from jail, Elwood's mission is to put the old band together again. It takes roughly four minutes before the first warrant goes out for his re-arrest, but by this time the Blues Brothers have also had to deal with the Russian Mafia and a rabid right-wing militia group convinced that the Blues Brothers Band is a Jewish communist conspiracy. "The only palpable difference

Thumbs down for Blues Brothers



Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

BLUES BROTHERS 2000
Dom Young, 19: Enough to give you the blues. An atrocious movie.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Many people in the audience walked out — an indication of this film's quality.
Emma Rolph, 19: I haven't seen the original and if it's anything like this, I don't want to. A definite worst film of the year nominee.

Laura Brook, 19: Dan Aykroyd and John Goodman do their best but nothing can save this dire movie.
STAR KID
Dom: A cheap and cheerful kiddies movie. I've seen worse.
Leslie: Obviously aimed at a family audience. Kids might like it, but it irritated me enormously.
Emma: Joseph Mazello gives a nice little performance in this funny sci-fi drama.
Laura: I didn't like it, but children might go for it big time.

GUY
Dom: A flawed but original piece of film-making. Movie of the week, although it wasn't much of a contest.
Leslie: The story of a woman who constantly films a man she doesn't know. Odd, yes, but very watchable.
Emma: Dark and intriguing. Vincent D'Onofrio is excellent.
Laura: When the film's credibility is stretched, D'Onofrio's strong performance saves the day.

'A perfect pairing. A perfect film'
★★★★★
Jim Maloney - EW MAGAZINE

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The Daily Star ALAN FRANK

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Total Film ANDY LOWE

JEREMY IRONS MELANIE GRIFFITH FRANK LANGELLA

Lolita

NOW PLAYING AT ODEON WINDSOR
AND AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

LISTINGS Glyndebourne opens

LONDON

COOPERHAGEN: Michael Shummers directs Michael Frayn's new play, regarding the reasons behind the curious visit paid by the German chancelor Helmut Kohl to Mrs. Thatcher in 1971.

THE SHOEMAKER'S WONDROUS WIFE: A new production of the play by the National Theatre, featuring a double bill with the first British playwright to be knighted.

TAKE AWAY: Stephen Clark's new play for the National Theatre, set in a London Take Away where the Chow family sons may have become "bambinos".

THE TURNING WORLD: The provocative avant-garde Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas open the international dance season.

ELSEWHERE: BRIGHTON: Today's festival programme offers two premises. First off the mark is Beach Walk, the latest

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

work from Lisa Anderson. The troupe of the choreographer's female dance group the Chromosomes and its male counterpart the Featherheads are back for a free performance on the Hove Lawns at 7.30pm, with further performances on Fri. Sat and Sun. In the Dome at 7.15pm, the Symphony Orchestra of London joins the Brighton Festival Chorus and New Sussex Opera Chorus under the baton of David Angus for a concert performance of Shostakovich's



Nigel Kennedy plays Hendrix in Warwick

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingdon's assessment of the new showing in London

- EDNA - THE SPECTACLE: The Dame is back, although in the musical first but in a splendid evening for the audience interaction. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-490 8500) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.
FRANZISKA: First ever English performance of Wedekind's 1911 drama, his last important play, presented by Rego, a female Faust sells her soul for cabaret time. Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pentonville Road, NW1 (0171-259 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.
HYMN TO LOVE: Elizabeth Mitchell performs Edith Piaf's songs in a show devoted to her life and work, written by Steve Telford, directed by Annie Castledine. Drill Hall, Chancery Street, W1 (0171-870 8270) Tue-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat 3pm.
THE KEEMAN COMEDY: Eugene O'Neil's long but magnificent drama on the conflicts of self-obsession Howard Dances dracts a great cast led by Rupert Graves, Clarke Peters, Kevin Spacey, Alan Rickman, 128 Albany Street, N1 (0171-352 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 1.30pm; mat Sat 11.30am.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Waterlilies by J.M.W. Turner from the R.W. Lloyd Bequest (0171-323 8523)
Royal Academy: Roy Lichtenstein's 'The Blue Boy' (0171-490 3144)
National Portrait Gallery: 'The Boy in the Blue Suit' (0171-747 2855)
National Gallery: 'The Boy in the Blue Suit' (0171-747 2855)
The Power of the Poet (0171-938 524541)

CHICAGO

Reviewed version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical created by Walter Bobba. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starting Ruthie Henshall, Lita Larpner, Henry Goodman and Nigel Planer. Adelphi Theatre, WC2 (0171-259 0555) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

EDNA - THE SPECTACLE

The Dame is back, although in the musical first but in a splendid evening for the audience interaction. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-490 8500) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.

FRANZISKA

First ever English performance of Wedekind's 1911 drama, his last important play, presented by Rego, a female Faust sells her soul for cabaret time. Gate Theatre, Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pentonville Road, NW1 (0171-259 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm.

HYMN TO LOVE

Elizabeth Mitchell performs Edith Piaf's songs in a show devoted to her life and work, written by Steve Telford, directed by Annie Castledine. Drill Hall, Chancery Street, W1 (0171-870 8270) Tue-Sat 7.30pm; mat Sat 3pm.

THE KEEMAN COMEDY

Eugene O'Neil's long but magnificent drama on the conflicts of self-obsession Howard Dances dracts a great cast led by Rupert Graves, Clarke Peters, Kevin Spacey, Alan Rickman, 128 Albany Street, N1 (0171-352 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 1.30pm; mat Sat 11.30am.

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

Inspired coupling of Stoppard's parody whodunit and Shaffer's light-for-dark

CINEMA GUIDE

- MONSIEUR MATHIS: Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (P) on release across the country.
DEEP IMPACT (12): Hurting corner.
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND (12): Inspired coupling of Stoppard's parody whodunit and Shaffer's light-for-dark.
THE KEEMAN COMEDY (12): Eugene O'Neil's long but magnificent drama on the conflicts of self-obsession Howard Dances dracts a great cast led by Rupert Graves, Clarke Peters, Kevin Spacey, Alan Rickman, 128 Albany Street, N1 (0171-352 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 1.30pm; mat Sat 11.30am.

ARTS Wigan's chosen phew

There is a pub in a remote village in Co Clare where the house band, led by Ted, a one-legged man with a white beard, regularly slips a cover of the Verve's seminal No 1 single, The Drugs Don't Work, into its repertoire of traditional Irish ballads.

But what is most intriguing is that it never seems out of place, because in essence it is a folk song. Only a year after its release, it already sounds as timeless as any of the celebrated standards in its company.

When the Verve themselves play the song midway through their concert in Dublin's Point Depot, the circumstances are somewhat different: there are 8,000 fanatical disciples singing along in the spacious docklands arena, none of whom is permitted to drink or smoke in the auditorium.

Such is the measure of the Verve's phenomenal transformation from under-achieving indie also-rans to unit-shifting rock monsters. Main man Richard Ashcroft is in particularly fine form because this very day, he tells the crowd, he has learnt that Urban Hymns, the band's third bite at the cherry, has gone ten times platinum in Ireland.

POP The Verve The Point, Dublin.

OPERA: A multi-media Philip Glass in 3D; plus classic one-acters by Purcell and Charpentier

Monstrous anticlimax

Monsters of Grace Barbican

"THEATRE up until this point has basically been rooted in 19th-century technology with a few bells and whistles," according to Jedediah Wheeler, co-producer of the latest Philip Glass/Robert Wilson collaboration, Monsters of Grace, which, by contrast, he considers to be "21st-century theatre".

Monsters of Grace (the opening show of BITE98, the Barbican's first international theatre season) is a 70-minute multi-media work interweaving live action with digitally animated stereoscopy. For the latter we were provided with special 3D glasses to appreciate the computer-generated images projected onto a large screen.



Richard Ashcroft and The Verve have gone from indie hopefuls to mainstream idols

The rest of the band keep their heads down and get on with it; as Ashcroft is the epic soul-searcher, his colleagues are static shoe-gazers, laying down extended (occasionally over-extended) classic rock grooves with a minimum of fuss. Bittersweet Symphony got the foot stamp of approval from the balcony and during the encore History sounded as mercurial as ever.

Although this was the first night of their European tour, the Verve played like a band fast approaching their peak. On this form their homecoming gig in Wigan's Haigh Hall on Sunday could be one of the highlights of the year.

NICK KELLY

Rollicking couple Acteon/Dido and Aeneas St John's Smith Square

THE pairing of Charpentier's and Purcell's one-acters in a double bill is neat, and not just because hunting plays a part in both. Much has been spilt on the subject of the influence of the French school on the first, tragically short-lived British opera composer, and hearing two pieces on the same scale is as instructive as it is rewarding.

Charpentier had the advantage of the better (and anonymous) libretto and made the most of it, tailoring the music to dramatic needs rather than the demands of form: the chorus interrupting Juno, Queen of Heaven, before she has quite finished her first grade and then protesting volubly at the injustice of Acteon's fate must have seemed shockingly bad manners in the 1680s.

Opera-goers weaned on Wagner and Verdi traditionally detect a hint of the vegetarian in early music performances, but there was precious little bloodless about James Ockley's warmly phrased Acteon, certainly not about Sally Bruce-Payne's rollicking Juno and Sorceress. As Belinda, Jenni Bennett's soprano had substance as well as brightness, and she joined Mhairi Louise Mott's firm, satin-sheeny tone was perfect for Dido: her poised singing of the Lament held the full, appreciative house breathless. A hugely civilised evening.

BARRY MILLINGTON

RODNEY MILNES

Large grid of theatre listings including Opera & Ballet, Theatres, and various performance venues like the Barbican, National Theatre, and Royal Opera House.

Vertical advertisement for 'Acti...' and 'Beautiful' featuring 'The Musical for All Time - One More Time!' and 'Brothers'.

فكرنا من الاصل

THEATRE Charitable Bonnie

ARTS

MUSIC Pulsating Gergiev

Acting is food and drink to them

As a Chichester cast tucks into pasta onstage, Daniel Rosenthal savours other great moments of dramatic haute cuisine

For 20 years the director Jude Kelly has successfully tackled stage tragedy and comedy: from next week, audiences will judge her expertise with stage crockery. This new speciality has been honed during rehearsals for her Chichester production of Eduardo de Filippo's Saturday, Sunday and Monday, a Neapolitan domestic comedy whose first and second acts unfold as an immense meal is prepared and served with ritualistic care.

Like Arnold Wesker in The Kitchen or David Hare in The Judas Kiss and Skylight, de Filippo knows how effectively a fired-up stove can show us a character's true colours. In Act I of Saturday, Sunday, set in 1959, Rosa Priore (Dearbhla Molloy) and her maid, Virginia (Moya Brady), chop, slice and season the ingredients while relatives and friends pass through their kitchen. Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse, says that the need for Molloy and Brady to follow two sets of cues — the script's and the recipe's — makes this an immensely demanding play for the actors.

"In life, people preparing a big meal talk to you very distractedly because they're thinking about the cooking," she says. "But Dearbhla and Moya have to concentrate on their lines and their cooking." Act II's Sunday lunch causes the era, simmering tensions between Rosa and her suspicious shopkeeper husband, Peppino (David Suchet), to boil over — but not before the company enacts a stage direction which requires plates to be passed along a table "from hand to hand, like juggling clowns in an equestrian circus". De Filippo also stipulates that the sizes of portion dished out by Rosa must reflect precisely each diner's personality. "We have spent hours and hours on that moment," says Kelly, "and the

actors have eaten cold pasta again and again."

The Saturday, Sunday set contains a working oven, but is nothing like as elaborate as Mark Thompson's design for the 1994 revival of The Kitchen. Thompson transformed the Royal Court stalls into a gleaming grid of ovens and work surfaces, in which 28 chefs, porters and waitresses mimed the preparation and dispatch of hundreds of meals.

That production's director, Stephen Daldry, recalls how, in rehearsal, the actors "got very possessive, saying 'These are my utensils, no one else can use them' — just like real chefs."

For Wesker, who based The Kitchen on his Fifties experiences as a pastry chef at Le Rallie, a large restaurant in Paris, cooking is inherently theatrical: "I've used it a lot in my plays, but only to reveal character, never as an end in itself."

The most virtuosic bit of stage cookery in Wesker's work occurs in The Four Seasons, when Adam (played in the original, 1964 production by Alan Bates) makes an apple strudel in an unsuccessful attempt to cheer up his lover, Beatrice. "Bates had to roll pastry into a small oval, then pull it across a table with the back of his hand until it was paper thin without making any holes," Wesker says. "That got a round of applause every night."

Bates's duties were more demanding but less dangerous than those of Richard Clarke, currently on Broadway playing Sandy Moffatt, the Cadogan Hotel maitre d' who cooks for Liam Neeson's Oscar Wilde in The Judas Kiss. Though only minutes remain before he is due to flee for France, Hare's hungry Oscar must still dine in style, so Moffatt ignites a spirit lamp and prepares a creamy sauce for lobster à l'Américaine. "I get a little steam going, to let



Leaving the audience hungry for more: David Suchet (no ham actor he) prepares for his umpteenth mouthful in Saturday, Sunday... and Monday at Chichester

the audience see it's for real, but the key is to do everything quietly," says Clarke. "Because of the strict fire laws in New York, my costume has had to be fire-proofed. There were no objections from the fire brigade when we opened at the Playhouse in March, so I suppose self-immolation is OK in the West End."

Hare and Judas Kiss director Richard Eyre began their culinary collaboration in 1995 with Skylight. From the moment Tom Sergeant, the wealthy restaurateur, arrives in the spartan flat of teacher Kyra Hollis, his ex-lover, every step in their extraordinary reunion dance is made in time with the preparation of her spaghetti supper. His every niggling comment about her methods ("Are you putting the chilli in first?") was indicative of the gulf between them.

The original Kyra, Lia Williams, You can observe a similar tension in the opening moments of Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock. The "who's going to cook the breakfast fry-up?" game between long-suffering Juno and "Captain" Jack, her workshy husband, serves as neat shorthand for their whole marriage — and the sizzling sausages grip the attention of every carnivore in the house.

Kitchen sink realism like that has no place in Shakespeare, although the Bard does set down theatre's least appetising recipe. At the end

of her gruesome RSC Titus Andronicus, Deborah Warner dressed Brian Cox's Titus in chef's hat and apron and left us to imagine him following through his promise to Tamara's about-to-be-executed sons: "I will grind your bones to dust... And make two pasties of your shameful heads." Saturday, Sunday... and Monday is now in preview and opens on Wednesday at the Chichester Festival Theatre (01243 781312)

Game girl in the snake-pit

Carol Metcalfe's revival of Sweet Charity certainly has its strengths. My spine tingled a bit when hard-faced, cold-eyed nightclub hostesses in their spangled dresses and exorbitant hairdos hissed and spat out their offers of fun and laughter while doing stinky, convoluted things with their hips and legs.

Welcome to what the title character calls "a snake pit" in which lady boa constrictors and their cousins are only too happy to indulge in a little guest-swallowing. Welcome to Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields's marvellously brash number. Hey, Big Spender. It is terrific, and the one moment that fully lives up to the show's legend.

Maybe I should not have spent the hour before Tuesday's opening doing Sweet Charity scholarship. Thanks to those who reviewed it on Broadway in 1966, I went into the Victoria Palace dreaming of Bob Fosse's choreography, with its "dazzling patterns of movement and ugliness" and of Gwen Verdon's Charity, who combined vitality and poignancy, was "light shining in darkness", "appeared haggard yet was beautiful" and might be summed up as



Charity

"human energy and enthusiasm triumphant amid the bad and tawdry". Chet Walker's attempts at Fosseography don't always have the same snap, nor does Terry Parsons's red-draped, red-walled and (I suspect) slightly cheapo set evoke the necessary sleaze, nor is Bonnie Langford a total success as Charity, the nightclub waitress with the fantasies of escape, love and marriage, the irrepressible optimism and, given her taxi-dancer existence, the improbably untarnished heart.

Think of a blend of Barbara Windsor and Doris Day and, on the whole, you have her brave, game performance and bright, not-impassioned voice. She half-scuttles, half-teeters across the stage, every inch the over-age gamine with her pert, kookie manner and big, daffy grins. She is charming and winsome, but not sufficiently hurt or inwardly damaged, and therefore less touching than she might be when we reach an ending I suppose I must not reveal here.



All heart: Mark Wynter (Vittorio), Cornell John (Oscar) and Bonnie Langford (Charity)

Enough to say that she does not make the hoped-for advance on a romantic career that has hitherto consisted of being pushed into a lake by a silent dude in shades, and hiding in a cupboard while a wayward movie director completes the evening in bed with his serious mistress. After all, a claustrophobic nerd who is called Oscar, wears his jacket buttoned and has a thing about purity always seemed an improbable solution.

But with Cornell John investing the role with plenty of bashful humour, if also too much charisma and force, their oddball encounters are undeniably amusing. That's largely thanks to Neil Simon, whose trademark quips tend to prove irritating in straight plays but add class to a musical: "My religion is love, and I go to church a lot"; "Marry me and I'll destroy you" — "That's OK, I'm not doing anything much now";

"We don't dance, we defend ourselves to music." The book is mostly a strength and, with numbers like The Rhythm of Life and If My Friends Could See Me Now, so is that hummable score. But does the revival have the bite and unstoppable energy it might? Not really.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Fine French introduction; connoisseur's Donizetti; Carter in microcosm

ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington

DUTILLEUX L'Arbre des Songes/Timbres. Espace, Mouvement. Mystère de l'Instant Van Keulen/Bamberger Symphoniker/Sousstrut Koch Schwann 3-6491-2 *** £14.99 THE career of the French composer Henri Dutilleux (born 1916) straddles the century. Inevitably he was in flux, to some extent, by Debussy, Ravel and Roussel, but the works of his maturity have demonstrated an utterly individual voice. It is a voice that delights in what Dutilleux has called "the joy of sound", though the joy derives from a fastidious ear for nuance rather than sumptuous textures. All three of the works on this excellent new disc exemplify those refined sonorities. In what Dutilleux has called "the joy of sound", though the joy derives from a fastidious ear for nuance rather than sumptuous textures. All three of the works on this excellent new disc exemplify those refined sonorities. In what Dutilleux has called "the joy of sound", though the joy derives from a fastidious ear for nuance rather than sumptuous textures.

solist in the violin concerto L'Arbre des Songes (The Tree of Dreams) and the Bamberger Symphoniker under Marc Soustrut enjoys moments of humour such as the imitation of an orchestra tuning up in the third interlude. Timbres, Espace, Mouvement was inspired by Van Gogh's painting The Starry Night, and Dutilleux draws on a colourful palette with characteristic discrimination, while Mystère de l'Instant (Mystery of the Moment) distils spiritual significance in exquisitely refined textures. An ideal introduction to a major 20th-century figure.

OPERA John Higgins

GREAT SINGERS IN DONIZETTI Nimbis Prima Voce NI 789273 (two CDs) *** £10.99 NIMBUS has produced a connoisseur's jewel box with these recordings made between 1906 and 1947. The first CD covers the pre-electric days when Lucia was not the only one to be in favour. There is Dame Clara Butt, majestic in Lucia Borgia, and the great French bass, Marcel Journet, cavernous in La favorite, which also gives the chance to hear the 30-year-old Lauri-Volpi sing Spirto gentil.

Two foreigners who made their reputations in Tsarist Russia, Giuseppe Anselmi and Olimpia Boronat, shine in Don Pasquale, and Rosina Storchio shows just how O luce di Chamounir should be sung. The sound may occasionally be dim, but these singers knew all about pure tone and the handling of words.

Some of the items from the CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CHAMBER Hilary Finch

ELLIOTT CARTER Chamber music for winds Ensemble Contrasts CPO 999 453 3 *** £14.99 THIS is the 90th birthday year of Elliott Carter, that grand old European of American music; and this disc of wind music turns out to be an irresistible microcosm of his musical mind. The Wind Quintet of 1948 foreshadowed "future pre-

occupations". In Carter's own words, dilemmas of tempo and metre are teased out impishly and querulously by the excellent German group, Ensemble Contrasts. The real testing came a year later in the Eight Etudes and Fantasy. Sometimes these tiny pieces seem merely exercises for Carter himself. But at their best they show a virtuosity of imagination equal to that of their execution. The best fun, though, is to be had in the high mischief of Espirit rude/Espirit doux for flute and clarinet, written for the sixtieth birthday of Pierre Boulez. Its highly nuanced shifts of rhythm and metre pay homage to the French master, and then Carter's compatriot, the poet Wallace Stevens, is saluted in the Enchanted Preludes of 1988 in which flute and cello try as hard as they can to pretend to be each other.

Clocks and firebirds

All good things come to an end, and this week Clocks and Clouds, the Philharmonia Orchestra's long-term celebration of György Ligeti's music, reaches its conclusion a few days before the composer's 75th birthday. Monday's concert, again under Esa-Pekka Salonen and with both soloists making it a Nordic affair, showed again just how much this series has enriched London's musical life.

Salonen, possessed of superb technique, is an ideal interpreter of this music. No detail in these complex pieces goes missing; as a composer himself, Salonen brings a special understanding to these scores. In the "micro-polyphonic" Melodien, he moulded the bright interweaving textures as if producing a sculpture in sound, underlining the visual aspect of all Ligeti's work. Music is about time, and Ligeti's music is always shifting, but somehow time was suspended.

The centrepiece of this concert was the fiercely difficult Piano Concerto, completed ten years ago. One of Ligeti's masterpieces, indeed one of the greatest modern piano concertos, it calls for the kind of virtuosity that was more than met by Roland Pontinen. Pianist and conductor performed a skilled double-act in what has been described as acoustic conjuring, with the chamber orchestra adding to the cascading force of the opening, the desolation of the second movement and the

CONCERTS Philharmonia/Salonen Kirov/Gergiev Festival Hall

quicksilver effects that give the entire work its special quality. The imaginative combination of Ligeti with Debussy and Ravel brought together three figures preoccupied with translating colour into sound. But with Ligeti's complex rhythms deriving from non-Western music, all three also share a certain exotism. Salonen played up that aspect in a performance of Debussy's Iberia that was crude in the best sense, full of hot, dusty colour but also intoxicating beauty. With the mezzo Montica Groop he also captured the voluptuous atmosphere of Ravel's Shéhérazade.

Visits to London by Valery Gergiev and his Kirov Orchestra are becoming more frequent, but they remain special. A full Festival Hall greeted them on Tuesday, and was rewarded with a memorable evening of music close to Gergiev's heart: even by his standards the performance of Stravinsky's Firebird was outstanding, and given a neat twist in being followed with an encore of Baba-Yaga by Liadov, the composer most famous for having not written The Firebird. Gergiev has recently been proving his Wagnerian cre-

dentials. Here he turned his attention to Die Meistersinger, or at least a little of it; his slow and solemn account of the Act III Prelude gave the orchestra a good chance to show off its distinctive sound, especially the soft buzz of the lower strings and the dark, sonorous brass.

Wagner has been blamed for many things, and must also take partial responsibility for the overindulgent excesses of Scriabin. The latter's tone poem Prometheus, which opens with a "Prometheus chord" in place of a "Tristan chord", was written in preparation for a huge post-Wagnerian music-drama that never materialised. Its highly performed score can be hard to take, but Gergiev nevertheless painted an impressive sound-picture, blending the muscular solo piano playing of Alexander Toradze together with a massive orchestra that at its climax includes organ, bells and a wordless chorus. The Kirov Chorus itself was on hand here in a performance in which nothing was spared.

While in this 1911 work Scriabin was losing himself up a dead-end, in the 1910 Firebird Stravinsky was looking into the future. Though it was premiered in Paris, and later neglected by the Soviets, Stravinsky's early masterpiece really belongs to the world of the Maryinsky Theatre, and the Kirov played it as well as one would expect inheritors of that tradition to do.

JOHN ALLISON

Cycle of mixed quality

fluency that is never self-conscious. This gave charm to the Second Symphony. But even there, staccato markings were barely articulated. The elegant Larghetto was gently given and the strangely primitive Scherzo had some punch, though winds and horn were weak. But often, in both symphonies, the famous sustained sound was merely people not playing together. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the opening of the Ninth, where the whistled fifths seemed to slide in from several directions. Barenboim is perhaps right to say that this was the orches-

tra's Beethoven: for his strong beats were mysteriously not reflected in much of the performance. In accordance with prewar tradition, all winds were doubled and even horns were playing wind parts in the scherzo. Such forces do not necessarily lead to murky textures, but ragged ensemble meant that they did. Only in the Finale, when the truly operatic elements come into play, did we begin to hear Barenboim in full control, as he pulled the orchestra in all the contradictory directions required by this mercurial score. In their recitative the cellos achieved the only true pianissimo of the performance while the baritone Robert Holl delivered his "O Freunde" with tremendous power, and Lynne Dawson rose effortlessly across the assembled forces in this furious reading.

HELEN WALLACE

Peter Ackroyd finds that Dickens's letters reveal a cold, fearful man beneath a veneer of success and acclaim



Charles Dickens's public readings left him "dazed and worn"

It was the worst of times

When William Powell Frith painted Charles Dickens, at the beginning of these five years of correspondence, he noted that the expression of the novelist was of one "who had reached the topmost rung of a very high ladder, and was perfectly aware of his position". Yet that was only one aspect of a most elusive temperament. He was 47 years of age, but he looked much older; extant photographs show a nervous susceptibility wrought into the very cast of his features.

He might be pardoned the exhaustion. He had just separated from his wife in the most bitter and public fashion, and as a result had become estranged from most of his oldest friends. He was about to establish as well as edit a new weekly periodical and he was beginning work upon his twelfth novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*. Over the years covered by these two volumes, he would also complete *Great Expectations* and much of *Our Mutual Friend*. In the same period he embarked upon great tours of public readings which left him, in a phrase taken from one of his letters, "dazed and worn by gas and heat". Yet still he could not stop.

The fashion for photography in the 1850s and 1860s had ensured that he was the single most recognised and recognisable author in the country, "people of all degrees and classes taking off their hats and greeting him as he passed". He also remained the

most influential novelist of his period, despite the fact that some critics accused him of caricature or grotesquerie.

So some of the correspondence here is addressed to dignitaries such as Palmerston and Carlyle, Lord Russell and Edwin Chadwick. Other letters, of a more private nature, are sent to Wilkie Collins and Bulwer Lytton. There are also letters to his solicitor and to his doctor, to his publisher and to his children. There is even one to his chimney-sweep, whom he addresses in the most literary terms. "Dear Sir, Since you last swept my chimney it has developed some peculiar eccentricities... undergoing internal agonies of a most distressing nature... pours forth disastrous volumes... a comforting relief probably to the chimney...". And so it goes on, as Dickens envelops both the chimney and the sweep in the warmth of his imagination. There are letters here on the latest fires and murders — two topics for which he had a particular fondness — as well as discussions on the political and social affairs of the country.

There is one topic, however, which is conspicuously absent. No reference is made to his relationship with the young actress, Ellen Ternan, and even the most veiled

allusions have been subsequently concealed or erased. There has, of course, been endless speculation about the nature of their friendship, naturally fuelled by the novelist's frequent and mysterious disappearances to France where it is supposed that Ternan lived in seclusion with her mother. It has been suggested that they were engaged in a sexual affair, but there is no evidence for this in correspondence.

There is no doubt, however, about Dickens's own dominant mood during these years: it is one of sorrow. He writes to his close friend John Forster of the "never-to-be-forgotten misery of this latter time" which he compared to the horrors of his London childhood; it seems that fame and success had been stripped away, leaving him as vulnerable as he was in the days when he worked in the blacking factory. He was almost constantly in ill-health. He said that he was "always weeping" with rheum and catarrh, but there may have been another cause for the tears.

Yet he never gave up. Whatever misgivings or miseries he suffered "I shall fight out of them". Friends of battle and conflict circulated through his correspondence as well as his fiction since, as he wrote to Wilkie Collins, "We must close

up the ranks and march on". "Who is hit," he asked one correspondent, and replied: "I am hit." But he continued the fight. It is perhaps not surprising that his appearance and behaviour were sometimes compared to that of a military man, in their stolidity and precision: in his domestic life, too, he could be ruthless and dogmatic. Upon the subject of his ex-wife he was adamant. "That figure is out of my life," he wrote to Miss Burdett Coutts. "... and my desire is, Never to see it again."

But the paradox is that this cruelty is an intrinsic quality of his genius. When he describes his dying mother as "got up in sables like a female Hamlet", he is entering the world of characters such as Flora Finching and Mrs Gamp. These two volumes of correspondence emphasise one of the salient aspects of Dickens's life and art: when he was at his most miserable and sorrowful point, he was also capable of the wildest and most outlandish humour. There is a description here of a close friend's funeral as funny as anything in *Great Expectations*.

In the autumn of 1860 he burnt all the correspondence which had been sent to him for the last several years: it was fortunate, perhaps, that few people ever considered consigning Dickens's own correspondence to the fire. He remains alive in his letters, as in his art: this wonderful edition, now drawing slowly to a close, is the best possible introduction and tribute to the self-styled "Inimitable".

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS
Volume 9 (1859-1861)
Volume 10 (1862-1864)
Edited by Graham Storey
OUP, £65 and £70
ISBN 0 19 123234
ISBN 0 19 123242

Poetry not poems

I LIKE the idea of Amy Clampitt. Her story must give hope to all poor aspiring scribblers. Here is this woman who does not publish her first poems until she is 53. But then they and *The Atlantic Monthly* and people start to take notice.

The editor who plucked those unsolicited typescripts out of the slush-pile at the *Atlantic* was Mary Jo Salter. She provides a preface to Clampitt's posthumous *Collected Poems*, telling the rest of the inspiring tale.

Having waited so long for her breakthrough, the poet wisely did not rush into print with a book. But when that volume, *The Kingfisher*, did appear some ten years later in 1983, a number of normally sober critics turned cartwheels in the press in praise of it. Anne Stevenson spoke of her "elegantly crafted meditations" as being "more cultured and less eccentric" than Marianne Moore's. Helen Vendler pronounced that to read Clampitt was to enter the mind of a woman "too capable of exaltation to refrain from announcing joy". When Faber picked up the book for British publication, male voices joined the chorus. Blake Morrison, for instance, welcomed "the most gifted and acclaimed American poet to emerge for years".

There were four more volumes, all collected in the present book, and Clampitt won prizes and got married at the age of 73 before dying four years ago. Salter presents the poet as an altogether agreeable, bird-like woman with a gap-toothed smile and a Quaker background that left her devoted to silence. When she heard the glad news of her first book's acceptance she went out skipping. "You know,

Robert Nye

COLLECTED POEMS
By Amy Clampitt
Faber, £14.99
ISBN 0 19 288077 2
COLLECTED POEMS
1948-1998
By D. J. Enright
OUP, £15
ISBN 0 19 288077 2

she's only three years old," said the man she was to marry.

In view of all this, I wish I could lip her actual poems more, but in truth they seem to me a disappointment. Shafts of light appear amid a fog of words, but there is little in them in the way of mind or heart, and I note that even her fervent admirers grow reticent when they have to address what her work is about. The more successful things are sequences concerned with other writers — *Voyages*, best of all, a homage to John Keats which owes a lot to Walter Jackson Bates's great biography but which at least has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Too many of the others are shapeless poetical stuff, rich in feeling but lacking emotional focus, poetry rather than poems. I might be wrong, but I think that Amy Clampitt has been overpraised.

D. J. Enright, born the same year as Clampitt, seems to have lived in a different world. When young he had an old head on his shoulders and his early work was very much part of the Movement popular in the Fifties: terse verse, at best memorable and sensible, at worst like an examination of what someone once described as two bald men fighting for possession of a comb.

Enright is as English as they come, never more than when he writes about his sojourns in foreign parts. The titles of his books give his flavour: *Some Men are Brothers*, *Bread Rather Than Blossoms*, *Season Ticket*. All get put together here. Enright is unfailingly readable. The trouble is his lack of lyricism: so much understatement can sound like a professional mutter. But there's nothing strained or phoney about him, no barbed crap, and his concern for other people is commendable.

Things change; but not violence

This is an enthralling and disturbing book. Peter Hart is a young Canadian scholar who for nearly a decade has been investigating the experience of the war of independence and the subsequent civil war as it affected the communities of Co Cork from 1916 to 1923; he has brought to the task not only historical gifts of a high order but remarkable subtlety, insight, intelligence and compassion.

The excitement, fellowship and derring-do of revolutionary times in Rebel Cork have often been recollected and replayed; and Hart handles this dimension with great empathy and gives those legendary guerrillas (and balladeers) their due. But Cork — in many ways the crucible of violent revolutionary experience in this era — was also notable for a high proportion of Protestants, living in small farms and urban cottages as much as in Big Houses. Hart's reconstruction explores and recalls the experience of the losers, the victims, the apathetic and the wrongly accused. His work stands as the most probing analysis I have read of how "tit for tat" killings operate in enclosed rural communities, and the processes whereby neighbours become strangers and eventually enemies.

The book's prologue explores a case-study: "The Killing of Sergeant O'Donoghue". A popular "decent" local policeman, he was shot dead on the street in November 1920; later that night the homes of his suspected assailants were raided by his enraged comrades, and three further deaths ensued. Hart constructs the networks of family background, social geography and political assumptions which underlay the communities of Cork — using a rich range of sources, including the investigations compiled by the sergeant's relatives just after the event and his own interviews with survivors.

The mirror-imaging of intimate enmities is also explored by the last chapter of the book, on "Spies and

Roy Foster on the intimate enmities of rural Ireland

Informers". These descriptions, Hart shows, could mean anything or nothing (playing in the wrong band, talking to a policeman on the street). Yet the identifications are still used, surreptitiously, tagged on to children and even grandchildren: in the mind of the locality, many of these events could have happened yesterday.

Yet the versions of how they happened are imprisoned in mutually conflicting world-views. Hart

THE IRA AND ITS ENEMIES
Violence and Community in Cork, 1916-1923
By Peter Hart
OUP, £40
ISBN 0 19 820527 6

is too scrupulous — and too subtle — to make easy extrapolations to conflicts further north, a half-century later, but the assonances are unmistakable.

The sergeant, and his like, were Irish, Catholic, and came from families deeply integrated into the community. So, ostensibly, did the small Protestant farmers, drapers, schoolteachers; but they also became "targets" for reasons which had less to do with political affiliation than atavistic ethnic conflict ("Taking it out on the Protestants"). This happened particularly after the Treaty of 1921, when the civil war loosened the bonds of discipline imposed by republican authorities during the heroic fellowship of the war of independence.

But even during the earlier struggle, conflicts of definition were being fought out. Time and again, in oral evidence or newspaper

reports or reported altercations between neighbours on different sides, the phrase recurs: "I am as good an Irishman as you." By 1921, the idea of a "good Irishman" had been redefined; certainly those moderates who had supported Redmond's Home Rule were disqualified, let alone those representing the acquiescent Unionism of the small Protestant communities. The extent to which they fled the area in the early 1920s has never been documented so closely before; in doing so, Hart extends and redefines what was meant by "the revolution in the village".

He also analyses the backgrounds, world-views, achievements and disappointments of the revolutionary generation: the Collins guerrillas who brought off famous coups like the annihilation of 17 Auxiliary cadets at Kilmichael — "a brave, daring and even brilliant ambush that turned into a massacre". It was the archetypal rebel victory: Hart points out that it also redefined the struggle in terms of "war" rather than episodic terrorist acts. By painstakingly deconstructing the many conflicting versions given, Hart also shows how and why rationalisations after the event emerged. The IRA claim that the Auxiliaries offered a false surrender, and the British statement that survivors were hacked to death, are equally exposed.

From such incidents, using ballads, memories, and the tools of anthropological research as well as an astonishing range of local and archival records, Hart recreates the contemporary mentality. In another *tour de force* he traces "the rise and fall of a revolutionary family", the resourceful Hailes of Ballinadee: the climax, where the crippled patriarch is carried out of the flames as the Black and Tans burn his beloved farmhouse to the ground, and the civil war turns brother against brother, strikes echoes of stories as old as time. It is a rare achievement to write a first book that is also a classic, but Peter Hart may have done it.



Hope for peace? Allegiances are passed down the generations as the present resonates with the past

America, broken promised land

In his 1991 film, *Homicide*, David Mamet explores a Jewish cop's disintegration after being exposed for denying his Jewish identity. About the film, Terrence Rafferty noted in *The New Yorker*: "The melancholy, reflective tone seems intended to mask the story's essential recklessness and irresponsibility and perhaps also to conceal the trite cop-movie mechanics of its construction." It is as if plot, which falls apart during the course of the film, seems too dishonest, too *Christian* a construct to sustain.

In his second novel, *The Old Religion*, Mamet again dispenses with the mechanics of plot construction to give the reader a clearer view of the universal values in the real-life case of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory owner in Georgia, wrongly accused of raping and murdering a white employee in 1914. He was tried, convicted, and eventually lynched by a mob.

As a Jew, Frank is granted "the almost-more-than-provi-

Russell Celyn Jones

THE OLD RELIGION
By David Mamet
Faber, £9.99
ISBN 0 572 19260 2



Mamet: out of the ordinary

sional status of a White Man", for which privilege he loves America. He holds secular conversations with himself and his friend, Morris, philosophising about rules of chance — but in the safety of his own home. But Frank's tragedy is to attempt assimilation into Christian society outside that sanctuary, until one day he turns down the wrong street and into the first of a series of ill-fated events.

What seemed innocent quotidian encounters with neighbours and workers on that day become the basis for the prosecutor's case. Girls who worked happily for Frank for years now accuse him of being a lecher, getting at him through the lowest common

denominator, like the student Carol in Mamet's stage play, *Oleanna*.

When Frank is finally condemned his personal philosophy becomes profound: "You swine, you Christians, who 'long for some magical past where there was no strife and point and say, 'if he were gone, this past would reappear.'" He takes lessons from a rabbi who explains how *amer* meant "bitter" in the Latin of the

original map-makers of America; how Christians award themselves "Godhood" by believing in their power to overcome chance — God's prerogative; how they never give to the poor, as enjoined by the New Testament.

The Old Religion has a preordained structure, but Mamet's treatment of that story is out of the ordinary. In deconstructing Frank, Mamet treats a fine line between self-questioning and self-indulgence. The dialogues seem to begin in the middle of an ongoing conversation, as though his characters' relationships exist outside the novel, which in a sense they do: "If I would... Yes, yes, yes," *Morris* said. "Yes, 'Act in... well, *Morris*. *Morris*. Each of us has... don't we? Each... wait a moment..." And there are only sparse descriptions of settings, leaving open most of the canvas for Frank's soliloquies. But for such a short novel (94 pages, double-spaced) it is stimulating and inimitable.

ONE can't help but flinch at this book's very title, so unsettling is the notion of women's experience in the Holocaust as a separate object of study. This, surely, is one feminism too far. Yet to its credit, this important book doesn't discount dissenting voices, but includes and addresses them, ultimately making a persuasive case for the legitimacy of its subject.

The dissenters' argument isn't without power. Won't a focus on women's experience inevitably create hierarchies of suffering and banalise the subject, as if the Holocaust were just another of life's inequalities? The dissenters balk at the imposition of today's concerns on the past, believing that making distinctions between victims deflects attention from Nazi policy.

Though a few examples here support them, the counter-arguments are mostly more convincing. The editors suggest that by attending to gender, we get a more finely nuanced understanding of the Holocaust. As Mary Felstiner has written: "Along the station towards extinction... each gender lived its own journey."

Anne Frank no more a lone voice

Anne Karpf

WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST
Edited by Dafna Ofer and Lenore J. Weitzman
Yale, £19.95
ISBN 0 300 07354 2

Nor is this merely a modern perspective: in 1941 Emmanuel Ringelblum, the great architect of the Warsaw Ghetto, asked an historian to research women in Warsaw since the beginning of the war and made his own terse observations.

And yet, Anne Frank aside, the most often cited Holocaust testimony (Levi, Wisnel, Appel) is by men, rather than women, and as in other spheres the male experience is considered universal and the women's particular. This collection reinstates

women in the universal, with riveting accounts of their role in the Resistance. But it also challenges the emphasis in Holocaust literature on armed resistance (in which more men were engaged) by drawing attention to those rescue activities more prevalent among women, which have been relatively neglected and devalued.

Other chapters trace the changes in women's lives wrought by the war. While Jewish men in Germany lost jobs after the Nazis came to power, women's work increased. Ironically (and this shouldn't be taken as a recommendation for genocide), in the ghettos women were forced to take on occupational and social roles taboo in pre-war bourgeois Jewish society.

Many contributors examine the ways in which women camp inmates, more than men, formed social, nurturing bonds, which aided survival.

Lenore Weitzman's brilliant chapter on "passing" blends testimony with theory to show how more women than men were able to pass in Poland as Aryan, partly because Polish Jewish men were almost invariably circumcised and so feared physical exposure.

Perhaps the most problematic difference raised here is motherhood and sexuality. Pregnancy in concentration camps was, in a dreadful irony, life-threatening (pregnant women, and those with small children, were sent straight to the gas chambers). Researchers have also emphasised women's sense of sexual vulnerability and humiliation during the Holocaust. But Sara R. Horowitz, in an excellent concluding essay, argues that exploring women's experience almost exclusively in terms of sexuality marginalises it once again. She urges examination of the role of gender not only in women's accounts but also in men's. This book isn't the first to begin to tackle these issues, but its rich diversity of perspectives makes a major contribution to our understanding of them.



Back

Soldier

SAVING THE WORLD FROM THE NAZIS

MAY 21 1998
etry
lot
ems



Hopes for an earlier biography were dashed by family problems: Siegfried (centre) in the cricket team, New Beacon, c.1901

Back to the front

Andrew Motion salutes the first biography of a brave soldier and sensitive poet

Quite properly, the First World War still engrosses us. The further it retreats into history, the more baffling the scale of its suffering becomes. Novelists (Pat Barker, Sebastian Faulks) offer their re-creations as complements to the doughty work of true historians. Artists of other kinds (film-makers, especially) elaborate the web of analysis. Taken together, their efforts amount to a mighty torrent of respect, fascination and horror.

So why has there not yet been a biography of Siegfried Sassoon, one of the war's most famous figures, and one of its best memorialists? The answer is complex — a mix of estate problems, family problems, and the larger question of how Sassoon's superb autobiographies affect the whole business. But the delay has meant that our understanding of the war poets has looked ridiculously like a doughnut. Owen, Rosenberg, Thomas, Blunden, Brooke: sorry, they all have their monuments, but Sassoon's story has been a blank — or at least a hole filled with his own "fictitious reality" (the Sherston books), with affectionate partial accounts (such as the one by Dame Felicitas Corrigan), and with rumours and glimpses.

This has damaged Sassoon's reputation in predictable ways. It has also, apparently, compelled the biographer who has now finally stepped into the breach, Jean Moorcroft Wilson, to compensate for the silence of many years by deluging us with detail. Her 600-page book covers the first 32 years of Sassoon's life — from his birth in 1866 to the end of the war — and has the drop on everything. His second best pair of childhood ice-skates. The maiden name of his prep-school headmaster's wife. The likelihood of his enjoying "two other popular sports of the time ... croquet and clock golf."

All of which represents a most assiduous effort by Moorcroft Wilson, and an almost insupportable load on her subject. When Auden made his famous judgment: "A shilling life will give you all the

facts", he reminded biographers to value the things in a life that cannot be neatly fitted up, spelt out, accounted for. Art, he implied, is in a vital sense produced against the grain of everyday events, in a kind of secret time that does not show up in diaries or calendars. Sassoon, like other war poets, is an especially interesting case in point. On the one hand his poetry is the product of a distinct and notorious set of experiences; on the other its quality depends on his more than simply reacting to what life threw at him. Good war poetry, in other words, like all good poetry written in response to a crisis, is good because

times", and the other "a timid, hypersensitive introvert with strong spiritual needs", is unconvincing to the point of banality. We don't hear the friction as they rub together to produce "one grand sweet song".

Flower-filled countryside and bomb-blasted front line: monied toffs and working class "other ranks", "prolonged childhood" and sudden maturity: the contrasts which lie behind Sassoon's transition from peace to war are legion. Like many of his contemporaries, he carried into the trenches the gung-ho patriotism he had picked up at Marlborough and Cam-

bridge — where he felt no urgent need to finish his degree course. (Indeed, he was "probably ... the first War poet to have enlisted", Moorcroft writes.) Unusually, though, the recklessness which accompanied his early enthusiasm stayed with him for a longish time. Even when his eagerness turned into disgust, and then converted again into his famous protest against the Allies for prolonging hostilities, he still fought with exceptional courage. The doctrine of his two selves ("Mad Jack" or sensitive poet) cannot adequately comprehend this either: Sassoon is too violently driven. Nor are the sources of his behaviour as a soldier — which combine self-dislike, self-belief, and a deep sense of obligation to others — separate from the forces which drove his poetry. They are virtually the same.

There is one other element which needs adding to this equation: Sassoon's homosexuality. Moorcroft Wilson follows the develop-

ment of his work from wishy-washy juvenilia ("List! The larks are gaily singing./ Swallows nestle in the eaves") to the Masefield-inspired plainness of the 1912 *Daffodil Murderer* ("I thought how in the summer weather/ When Bill and me were boys together ..."), while at the same time noticing his occasional woman-baiting, man-preferring remarks. Due partly to the influence of later gay friends such as Robbie Ross ("friend of friends"), his war poetry combines this slowly acquired direct utterance with great physical and sometimes actually erotic tenderness for his fellow-soldiers. "Love drove me to rebel", he says in *Autumn*, which he wrote at the Front in the year after making his protest: "Love drives me back to grope with them through hell/ And in their tortured eyes I stand forgiven."

I was due to this protest that Sassoon met Owen in the Craiglockhart Hospital, and Moorcroft Wilson is properly open about the nature of their relationship. Sassoon was deeply impressed by Owen's poetic gift less so by his personality, and apparently not much by his looks and voice ("grammar school"). For many readers, this enthralling encounter will seem the heart of the biography. In truth, though, the book tells a story in which the roots are as interesting as the core. Sassoon is a compelling figure not just for the war-witness of his best poems or for his great memoirs (which will no doubt get a thorough combing in volume two), but for the several conflicts he embodied and could not happily resolve. Social and political conflicts. Cultural. Sexual.

At his best he wrote brilliantly about the birth of the modern period, acting upon it imaginatively while knowing that he was also its victim. Moorcroft Wilson's book will be invaluable to historians of the period. And also, no doubt, to other biographers of Sassoon, who will be grateful for her diligence as they compensate for her lack of flair.

SIEGFRIED SASSOON
The Making of A War Poet
By Jean Moorcroft Wilson
Duckworth, £25
ISBN 0 7156 2822 4

Peter Stothard on the suicidal spirit of Greece

Not hung up on the facts

THE GREEKS AND GREEK CIVILISATION
By Jacob Burckhardt
Translated by Sheila Stern and edited by Oswyn Murray
HarperCollins, £24.99
ISBN 0 00 255855 6

Once upon a time — we are not quite sure when — there was a fashion for the young women of Miletus to commit suicide by hanging. The city elders blamed evil air and angry gods but were unable to stop the craze until they passed a law compelling the corpses of the hanged women to be borne naked through the market square on the way to burial. This stratagem, first described to us by Plutarch in the 1st century AD, was apparently a complete success.

The story was popular too. It appears among a number of case studies of curious female behaviour which attracted the attention of one of antiquity's most readable authors. But we have no idea whether it was true. Plutarch himself probably did not know whether Miletan girls had ever really gone suicide-crazy. He was not writing a chronological history of Miletus or trying to explain sociological changes in the southernmost cities of Asia Minor. He was writing moral essays and choosing the best tales to make his moral points.

The same story was used 1,800 years later by the Swiss founder of modern cultural history, Jacob Burckhardt, whose lectures on the Greeks and Greek civilisation have now been issued for the first time in a competent English edition. Burckhardt, though best known for his work on Renaissance art, was also a classicist, a conservative intellectual in politics and a newspaper editor with a strong urge for how to communicate ideas. The mad women of Miletus — and many other disconnected sagas from ancient literature — were part of his attempt to distil "the Greek spirit" and to produce what he hoped would be more stimulating lectures than the ones that he had had to sit through as a student.

Burckhardt's lectures were a heady cultural brew. Though congenial to his friend Friedrich Nietzsche, they appalled the academics of his day. Burckhardt was notoriously careless of what others in the field were doing: "This book is incapable of saying anything which deserves a hearing because it ignores what the scholarship of the last 50 years has achieved", wrote Willamowitz, the leading official classical scholar in 1899.

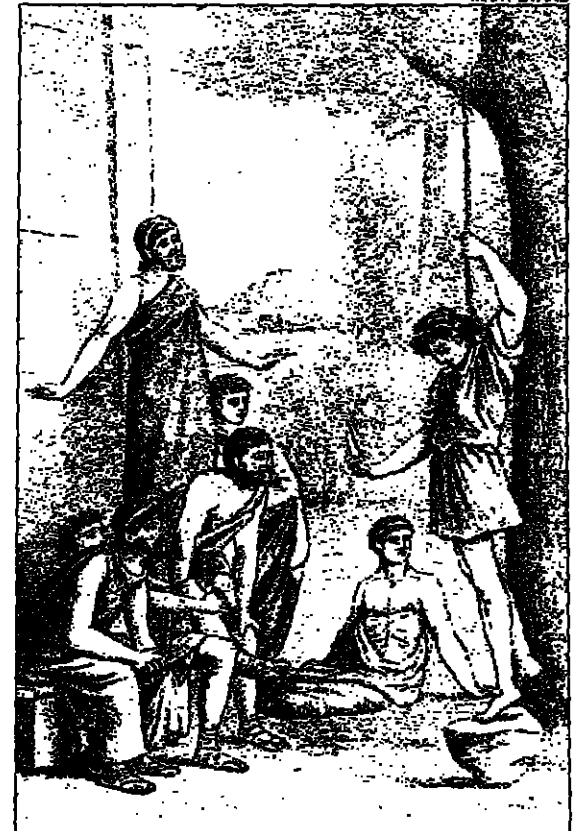
In an age excited by Darwinian evolution, Burckhardt was sceptical of progress and convinced that traditional historical methods exaggerated its scope. And at a time when his students were absorbing the new democratic spirit of Europe, Burckhardt was looking back askance at the Athenian foundations of democracy. He showed them a city that was oppressive to its own citizens and a terror to aliens, a place of beautiful people who appreciated beauty, but also a cruel, irrational people who well deserved the

falsity of the account itself. He believed that the effort of establishing when such a series of suicides might have taken place was both fruitless and misleading. Chronological accounts gave excessive importance to events, often accidental and unimportant events, that happened to be capable of being dated. He believed, instead, that he could gather together his own significant reports from the Greek world and thus display the true spirit of Greece.

To achieve this end requires both an extraordinary range of reading in the ancient texts and a rare capability to construct cultural edifices from the best pieces. Burckhardt had both — and many of his constructions have lasted. The very idea of the Greek polis, the city state whose rights were superior to those of any of the individuals within it, is an historical tool that Burckhardt developed. So too is the "agonal age", the concept of a pre-democratic Greece defined by glorious competition in warfare and sport. He had the best pessimist's sense of the frailty of human civilisation.

Yet the techniques of cultural history, even in Burckhardt's hands, posed questions that were hard to answer. Why should we believe that there exists a spirit of Greece for the historian to distil? What were the criteria, other than the intuition of the author, for the selection of ingredients? Burckhardt was intuitive but, in respect of democratic institutions, he was also highly prejudiced. These were opportunities which later cultural historians, using less homogeneous material than that of Burckhardt, were to exploit in the most calculated and tendentious ways.

Burckhardt is a challenging writer. And his sources are more reliable than those used and abused by his successors. But he needs reading with



Those swinging Greeks: a most fashionable death

well will find stars being forced from their eyes.

Not even prophets, however, can predict the way in which their legacy lingers after death. Burckhardt would, I suspect, have been suspicious of Trevor-Roper's praise. He would be pleased to see his work more easily available to English readers. But, if he were told of all the current forms of the cultural history that he pioneered, he would be less impressed, probably horrified.

Burckhardt is a hero to conservative scholars of today. But he can be seen also as unwitting father to all the laxer and more subjective modern genres of history, the nature of housework, the semantics of pub signs and the oral tradition of gypsies in Wakefield.

To Burckhardt the story of the Miletan women was important for what it suggested about the people who believed it, not for the truth or

an alert and open mind. Those Miletan women may well have represented part of some widespread Greek enthusiasm for suicide. Oppressed males, shamed women, frightened prisoners and the incurably ill might well have wanted to kill themselves in great numbers. Clever rulers may have legislated to prevent them. We do not know: what we do know is that, in Burckhardt's mind, the repressive nature of Greek institutions was the dominant theme and the investigation of fact a rather minor one.

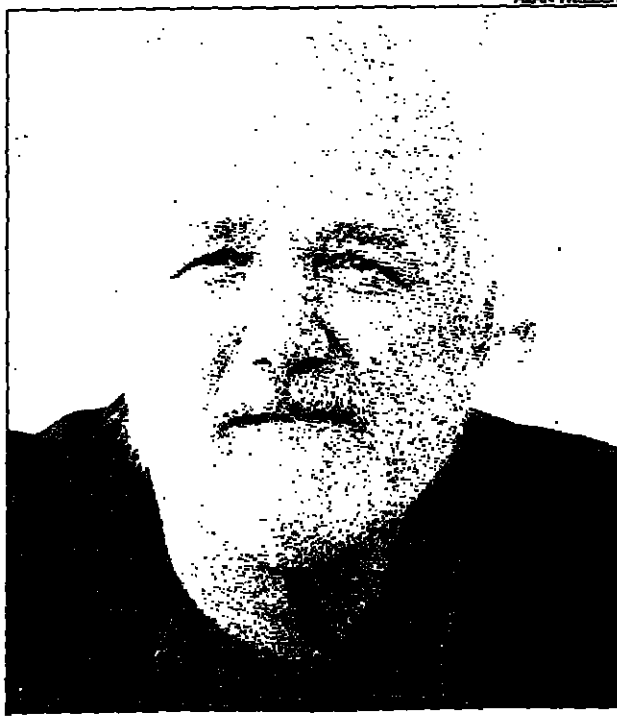
We also know that there was no single classical word for suicide, not in Greek nor even in Latin. *Suicidium* itself does not appear until the 12th century AD. If the word had been shown to Plutarch he would have taken the "suu" to mean pig and the "cidium" to mean killing and decided that the whole word must mean some kind of pork butchery.

Soldier of blood wed to God and the gun

He was, said Herman Melville, "the meteor of the war". Henry David Thoreau saw his execution and the Crucifixion as "two ends of a chain which is not without its links. He is not old Brown any longer; he is an angel of light." And Frederick Douglass, the great abolitionist who had stolen himself from slavery and finally bought his freedom, wrote that: "His zeal in the cause of freedom was infinitely superior to mine. Mine was as the taper light; his was as the burning sun. I could live for the slave; John Brown could die for him."

John Brown died in 1859, hanged for the abortive raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia, which he had hoped would be the real beginning of his crusade against the evils of slavery. That he did not succeed — he was wounded and captured, and two of his sons were killed, by a band of marines led by Col. Robert E.

Erica Wagner
CLOUDSPLITTER
By Russell Banks
Secker & Warburg, £16.99
ISBN 0 430 23558 8



Banks: 20th-century mindset in 19th-century language

Lee — is hardly surprising, for Brown succeeded in almost nothing, his life marked by his repeated failures in business. He had first drawn attention to himself in Kansas Territory in 1855 when he murdered five proslavery men in cold blood. Photographs of the time show a hard-faced man with a wild, prophet's stare: it would be easy enough to attribute this to the long exposure times of 19th-century cameras, were it not for the note he handed to one of his guards before he dropped from the gallows: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood." The war that would follow, the raid on Harpers Ferry a spark at its fuse, was the worst and bloodiest in the history of the United States.

A man of God stepped in, gore, he remains an enigmatic figure despite the historical and biographical literature that has been devoted to him. What moved him, what drove him, what made him willing to sacrifice his own life and the

lives of his children for his cause? If you had seen him, would you have thought him mad — or followed him into battle? These are questions which historians and novelists will approach differently: the novelist, it could be argued, with greater confidence, for he is present in the landscape of the imagination.

Russell Banks, in mounting his fictional assault upon the life of Brown, arms himself with history. The novel is narrated by Brown's son Owen, who escaped the raid and became, in its aftermath, a recluse, tending sheep in the wilds of California; the book begins as he tends off the biographical advances of one

Miss Mayo — assistant to Oswald Garrison Villard, whose account of Brown's life appeared in 1910.

Initially, he rebuffs her; but then sets out to give his own account to her. After 40 years of silence since his father's execution: "It's as if I have opened a floodgate, and a vast inland sea of words held back for half a lifetime had commenced to pour through". No wonder, then, that the novel runs to nearly 800 pages.

Owen is a tormented soul. If Frederick Douglass was a taper light in the face of Brown's sun, Owen is barely possessed of a wick. It is Banks's intention to use Owen's doubts — "What was this crack-brained obsession with slavery and Negroes anyhow?" — to open his father's character to questioning and interpretation; yet somehow, at the end of the novel, it seems to reflect more upon the strength of Brown than the strength of Banks that the subject resists such analysis.

One of the problems is that Owen's angst, despite careful 19th-century locutions ("Did Father believe that I, at least, was unable to forbear from self-abuse?"), has a peculiarly 20th-century flavour: it is easier to imagine Miss Mayo as a psychotherapist than an historian's assistant. And Owen never achieves anything by his

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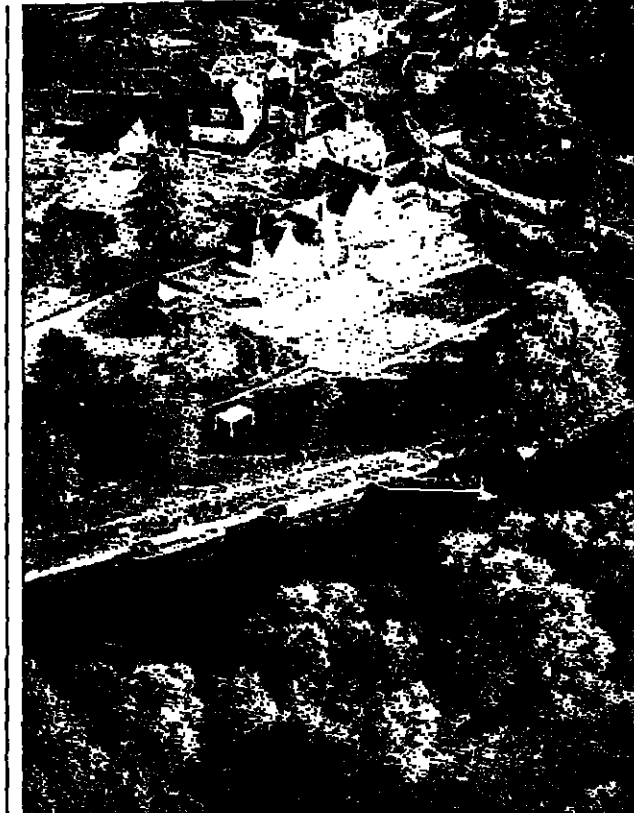
THE Rhine by coach rather than boat is suggested by Leger, which has a four-day weekend break starting from

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Council', 'Reinsurance', 'Business turns', and 'STI'.

كوتا من الاصل

House of Lords

Law Report May 21 1998

Council cannot cut statutory duty to power

Regina v East Sussex County Council, Ex parte Tandy Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nolan, Lord Slynn and Lord Hutton (Judgment May 20)
When a local education authority performed its statutory duty to provide suitable education for children of compulsory school age, it was not entitled to take account of the availability of financial resources when deciding what sort of education was suitable. A statutory duty was not to be reduced to the level of a discretionary power. The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the applicant, Beth Tandy, an infant, Hilary Tandy and next friend, Appeal (Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Staughton dissenting) (The Times October 2, 1997; [1997] 3 WLR 894) which had allowed an appeal from Mr Justice Keeble (The Times April 29, 1997) who had granted an application for judicial review and quashed the council's decision to reduce the fee from five to three hours a week for home tuition provided to the applicant.

efficient education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have.
Mr Michael Beloff, QC, Mr Tim Kerr and Mr Andrew Sharland for the applicant; Mr Nigel Fleming, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the council.
LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON said that Beth Tandy was born on February 8, 1982 and had suffered from myalgic encephalomyelitis since she was seven, in consequence of which she had found it very difficult and at times impossible to attend school. From May 1992 the council provided five hours a week home tuition for her. Originally that was provided pursuant to a statement of special needs since Beth was mildly dyslexic. However, that statement of special needs was withdrawn in July 1995 and since then her home tuition had continued under section 298. Beth's progress had been kept under constant review and every effort made to reintegrate her into her school environment. But her medical condition meant that she only attended school on a handful of occasions. Her prime source of education was home tuition.

In the proceedings for judicial review the decision was attacked on the ground, inter alia, that the local authority took into account an irrelevant consideration, namely, its financial resources. Like all other local authorities, the council was in an unenviable position. It was now prevented from obtaining either from central government or from local taxation the financial resources necessary to discharge its functions as it would like to do. In a period when the aim of central government, of whatever political colour, had been to achieve a reduction in public spending, local authorities had not been relieved of statutory duties imposed upon them by Parliament in times past when different attitudes prevailed. Thus, in preparing its budget the council had to find ways of saving expenditure.

Substantially re-enacted in section 19 of the Education Act 1993, substantially re-enacted in section 19 of the Education Act 1996, provides:
(7) Each local education authority shall make arrangements for the provision of suitable full-time or part-time education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness ... may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them.
(7) ... 'suitable education', in relation to a child ... means

'suitable education'. That view was much strengthened by the definition of 'suitable education' in section 298(7) which spelled out expressly the factors relevant to the determination of suitability. All those factors related to educational considerations and nothing else. There was nothing to indicate that resources available were relevant. Moreover, there were other provisions in the Act which did refer expressly to the efficient use of resources, for example section 160 and 161A. The draftsman had shown that he was alive to the issue of available resources. If he meant such resources to be relevant for the consideration of what constituted suitable education he would surely have said so. Also, the words of section 298(7) 'efficient ... education suitable to ... age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs' echoed the words of section 37 of the Education Act 1944, now section 7 of the Education Act 1996, spelling out a parent's duty to provide education for his child. The content of the parental duty to educate could not vary according to the parent's resources. The council's statutory duty to make arrangements for what constituted suitable education was owed to each sick child individually and not to sick children as a class. If there was more than one way of providing suitable education, the council could be entitled to regard its resources in choosing between different ways of providing suitable education. The council had, as a matter of strict legality the resources to perform its statutory duty under section 298. Very understandably,

Sentencing guidelines for importing amphetamine

Regina v Wijs and related appeals Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Peary-Davey (Judgment May 20)
Given that amphetamine was retained to consumers in a highly adulterated form and, weight for weight, was considerably more valuable than cannabis, sentencing guidelines in respect of amphetamine importation would differ materially from those relating to cannabis. The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in disposing of a series of appeals against sentence, and giving guidance on the appropriate level of sentence on conviction of unlawful importation of and possession with intent to supply the class B drug, amphetamine, contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Mr Mark Bryant-Heron for the Crown; Mr Martyn Levett, Mr Stephen Bevan, Mr David Harounoff, Mr John Mammion and Ms Althea Brown for the defendant; Andrew Donaldson, John Church, Pierre Haller, Daryn Rae and Eric Wijs respectively. THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, referred to the Court of Appeal's guidance on the appropriate levels of sentence on conviction of unlawful importation of the best known and most widely abused class B drugs, herbal cannabis and cannabis resin; see R v Arafah (1992) 4 Cr App R (S) 407, as refined in R v Ronchetti (The Times December 9, 1997). He also referred to R v Falshaw (1993) 14 Cr App R (S) 749 where the court had pointed out that no exact comparison could be made between cannabis and amphetamine, and to R v Aranguren (1994) 99 Cr App R 347, where the court had declined to give a guideline covering amphetamine when substituting weight for market value as the preferred measure for calculating the relative significance of seizures of class A drugs. His Lordship, emphasizing that the levels referred to were guidance only, said that the appropriate

penalty sentence in any case would depend on a number of circumstances, including a defendant's plea, and if of guilty, the date tendered, his history of involvement in drug trafficking, his role in the importation, and any help he had given to the authorities. The penalty for importing a controlled drug would in many cases be higher, and rarely lower than for possession with intent to supply. There were two obvious differences between cannabis and amphetamine: 1 While market prices tended to fluctuate depending on the interplay of supply and demand, and there had been a sharp decline in the street value of amphetamine recently, it had always, weight for weight, been vastly more valuable than cannabis. 2 It had always been the practice to retail amphetamine to consumers in a highly adulterated form. Evidence, based on seizures in the last year or two, showed that when realised, powders or tablets containing amphetamine now had a higher concentration of the drug than had once generally been the case. While goods seized at points of importation might contain a high percentage of amphetamine, at retail level the purity might well be no more than, say, 10 to 12 per cent or even less. It followed from that (i) that a trafficker in possession of a given quantity of amphetamine stood to earn considerably larger sums than a trafficker in possession of the same weight of cannabis; (ii) that a relatively small weight of amphetamine of maximum purity would, when adulterated, convert into a large number of individual doses; (iii) and that the weight which a user might hold for personal consumption was likely to be much smaller than the weight of cannabis held for such consumption. For the reasons given in the Aranguren case, the court was satisfied that with amphetamine, levels of sentence should depend not on market value but, subject to all other considerations, on the quantity of the amphetamine in question calculated on the basis of

100 per cent pure amphetamine base: that is, the maximum theoretical purity of 73 per cent amphetamine base in amphetamine sulphate, the remaining 27 per cent being the sulphate. As in relation to class A drugs (see R v Martin (1984) 6 Cr App R (S) 364) the court should not attempt to distinguish between different drugs included by Parliament in class B on the basis that one such drug was more or less pernicious than another. The distinguishing features of amphetamine did mean, however, that guidelines relating to its importation in so far as they were determined by weight had to differ materially from those pertaining to cannabis. On conviction of importing amphetamine following a contested trial a custodial sentence would almost invariably be called for save in exceptional circumstances or where the quantity of the drug was so small as to be compatible only with personal consumption by the importer. The ordinary level of sentence on conviction following a contested trial, subject to all other considerations and on quantities calculated on the basis of 100 per cent pure amphetamine base, should be: 1 Up to 500g: up to two years imprisonment. 2 More than 500g but less than 2.5kg: two to four years. 3 More than 2.5kg but less than 10kg: four to seven years. 4 More than 10kg but less than 15kg: seven to 10 years. 5 More than 15kg: upwards of 10 years, subject to the statutory maximum of 14 years. His Lordship referred to a number of reported cases, some by but not others, falling within these guidelines. It was the difficulty of reconciling certain of the authorities which made it desirable to give guidance on sentencing levels for these offences. The court then disposed of the individual appeals. Solicitors: Customs and Excise; Ms Sharon Coomber, Colchester, Ms Sharon Coomber, Ms Sharon Coomber, Alistair Harper & Co. Haywards Heath; Gepp & Sons, Colchester.

Reinsurance term cannot be implied without evidence

Baker v Black Sea and Baltic General Insurance Co Ltd Before Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Woolf, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hoffmann and Lord Hutton (Speeches May 20)
A term was not to be implied in a proportional reinsurance treaty, on the ground of necessity to give the contract business efficacy, to the effect that the reinsurers were liable for a share of the costs incurred by the insurer when investigating, settling or defending claims made by the insured on the underlying policy. The House of Lords so held, but remitted to the Commercial Court the question whether such a term was to be implied by reason of a trade practice or usage in the London insurance market. The appeal was brought by Mr Colin Baker, suing on his own behalf and on behalf of all other members of the syndicate at Lloyd's since 1987, from the order of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Oton) ([1996] 1 L.R.L.R. 353) upholding that part of the decision of Mr Justice Potter ([1995] 1 L.R.L.R. 281) whereby, in the course of adjudicating on a number of sample claims in proceedings brought by the syndicate for the purpose of determining the liability of Black Sea and Baltic General Insurance Co Ltd, the

reinsurers, the judge had held that the reinsurers were not liable for a share of the syndicate's costs of investigating, settling or defending claims. The contract had been incited in 1987 and terminated in 1988. The only contractual document to have survived was a copy of the cover note issued by the brokers in 1987. Equitas Reinsurance Ltd, which had become responsible for the conduct of the syndicate's claims against the reinsurers by virtue of the assignment and renewal plan promoted by Lloyd's, intervened by leave of the House of Lords. Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, for Equitas; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Sarah Lee for the syndicate; Mr Angus Glenje, QC and Mr David Joseph for the reinsurers. LORD LLOYD said that the costs in question were the variable costs incurred by the insurer in the investigation and renewal plan promoted by Lloyd's, intervened by leave of the House of Lords. Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, for Equitas; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Sarah Lee for the syndicate; Mr Angus Glenje, QC and Mr David Joseph for the reinsurers. LORD LLOYD said that the costs in question were the variable costs incurred by the insurer in the investigation and renewal plan promoted by Lloyd's, intervened by leave of the House of Lords. Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, for Equitas; Mr Christopher Clarke, QC and Miss Sarah Lee for the syndicate; Mr Angus Glenje, QC and Mr David Joseph for the reinsurers.

ment was that in a proportional reinsurance it did not make sense for the syndicate to bear the whole of the cost of defending claims. Since the reinsurers received half the premium in respect of risks ceded they ought to bear half the costs, including the cost of reducing losses by defending or settling claims, from which the reinsurers benefited. The argument would be a strong one if proportional reinsurance were in the nature of a partnership. But that had never been the law. It might also have been a strong argument if the profits on the business ceded were to be shared equally, but they were not. The syndicate was entitled to 20 per cent commission on profits before any distribution. Even in a year when no profits were being made it was entitled to 5 per cent, overriding commission. It might well be that the parties had intended the cost of defending claims to come out of the 20 per cent or the 5 per cent, or both. In the absence of any information as to how the provisions worked in practice, their Lordships did not have the material on which to say that a term was to be implied by law. Of the underlying authorities, his Lordship found the most assistance from Scottish Metropolitan Assurance Co Ltd v Groom (1924) 12 L.R.L.R. 44 and Insurance Co of Africa v Scor (UK) Reinsur-

ance Co Ltd (1985) 1 Lloyd's Rep 312. Both favoured the view that if the syndicate was to succeed, it could not be by virtue of a term implied by law. The syndicate had next argued that a term was to be implied by reason of a trade practice or usage in the insurance market in London. As Lord Wilberforce had pointed out in Liverpool City Council v Irwin (1977) AC 239, 253 it was common in mercantile contracts, where there was an established market, to add a term to an otherwise complete bilateral contract, on the ground that that was what the parties would unhesitatingly have agreed. Unfortunately the evidence of usage in the present case had been left in an unsatisfactory state owing to the fact that there had been many other issues to be covered at trial, and it was only at a late stage that the points of claim were amended so as to allege such an implied term. Given that, and the overriding importance of establishing an adequate evidence for the market as a whole whether the alleged trade practice or usage existed or not, their Lordships would accede to an application by Mr Boyd for leave to adduce fresh evidence. As to how the evidence should be received, Mr Boyd had said there were two choices: The House could direct the evidence to be taken

Power to prevent disclosure

In re W (Minor) (Adoption details: Disclosure) Where, in adoption proceedings, the interests of the child required that entries on the Adopted Children Register should remain confidential, the court had inherent jurisdiction under the Supreme Court Act 1981 to make an order that the information should not be disclosed to a third party without leave of the court. Mr Justice Wall so stated in chambers in the Family Division on February 19. His Lordship said that the circumstances warranted the making of an order following In re X (Minor) (Adoption details: Disclosure) ([1994] 2 F.L.R. 450). The child, now aged three, had been fostered almost from birth as the natural mother had mental health problems and there had been difficulties in relation to the transfer to the adoptive mother as the original foster mother had formed a strong bond with the child. In the event the foster mother

had obtained the adoptive mother's telephone number and relayed that to the natural grandparents. Although there was no direct attempt at contact, the adoptive mother was sufficiently alarmed to feel obliged to move house with considerable consequent disruption. Where there had been a serious breach of confidentiality and there was risk it might be repeated, it was necessary in the interests of the child to protect her from further disclosure.

Process turns parts of corpse into property

Regina v Kelly Regina v Lindsay Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Sullivan (Judgment May 14)
The common law rule that there was no property in a corpse or part thereof was confirmed subject to the exception that if a corpse or part thereof had undergone a process of skill with the object of preserving it, for example, for the purpose of medical or scientific examination, it thereby acquired a usefulness or value and was capable of becoming property and of being stolen. The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held dismissing the appeals of Anthony Noel Kelly and Niel Lindsay against their convictions on April 3, 1998 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Rivlin, QC and a jury) for theft. Mr Andrew Campbell-Tiach for the prosecution; Mr Peter Thornton, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Lindsay; Mr Terry Muniard, assigned by

the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Kelly. LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that the appellants had been found guilty of the theft of approximately 35 human body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons between June 1, 1991 and November 30, 1994. The trial judge followed an Australian authority Doodeward v Spence (1908) 6 CLR 406 and ruled as a matter of law that there was property in a human body or part thereof when it was altered in some way with the object of preserving it for the purposes of medical or scientific examination, it thereby acquired a usefulness or value and was capable of becoming property and of being stolen. The appellants submitted that body parts were not property and could not be stolen, that the Royal College of Surgeons was not lawfully in possession of body parts, and that consequently the jury were misdirected as to the issue of dishonesty. Mr Thornton advanced the following propositions: the common law rule that there was no property in a corpse applied to corpses to be buried but not yet buried, that there had been no

prosecutions for the theft of a corpse or part thereof, that the common law rule applied to parts of a corpse as well as an entire corpse, that the body parts in the present case were not property and were intended by their donors for burial, that Doodeward v Spence provided no exception to the general common law rule that there was no property in a corpse or part thereof as it was concerned with a two-headed foetus and not a corpse and with detritus and not theft, that the body parts had never been buried to anybody, and that the Royal College of Surgeons had day-to-day control of the body parts but did not have lawful possession because of expiry of the Anatomy Act 1832. The proposition submitted that in construing sections 4 and 5 of the Theft Act 1968 it was clear that a corpse or part thereof could be property. That submission was not entertained as it was not made to the trial judge. It was not an argument which was determinative of the appeal. His Lordship accepted the com-

mon law rule that there was no property in a corpse or part thereof. The principle had stood for 150 years and was so established that it could only be changed by Parliament. His Lordship, however, accepted the exception to that rule in Doodeward v Spence that if a corpse or part thereof had been altered for the purpose of medical or scientific examination it thereby acquired a value and became property. It was noted that the common law did not stand still and it might be that in the future a court would hold that body parts were property even without the acquisition of different attributes, if, for example, they were required for use in an organ transplant. The summing up of the judge as to possession of the body parts by the Royal College of Surgeons was correct as it was sufficient that the college was in possession of the body parts, lawful possession was not required to be proven. The convictions were upheld. Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Lottery cash gives added hope in bid for medals

By Jenny MacArthur

BRITAIN'S hopes for success at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney received a boost with the announcement yesterday that the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), on the recommendation of the UK Sports Council, is to receive a £762,000 grant from the Lottery Sports Fund for the initial year of the BEF's World-Class Performance Plan.

In a package that includes all the Olympic disciplines except for showjumping — which is being considered separately — £300,000 will go to riders, £105,000 to horse trials, £107,000 to disabled dressage and £92,000 to dressage, with £160,000 for the BEF. Part of the BEF grant is designated for a world-class performance director, yet to be appointed, who will be responsible for producing the full performance plan to take the sport through to the Athens Olympics in 2004.

David Carpenter, the Director of Lottery at the UK Sports Council, said: "British equestrian sport is highly competitive both at European and Olympic level, but a lot has been achieved on very limited resources over the last decade or so. This injection of finance and expertise will allow riders to continue to compete at the highest levels." Thirty-four riders are under consideration for grants.

Although British equestrian teams have been a traditional source of Olympic medals, they have returned empty-handed from the past two Games. After Atlanta, when it cost £400,000 to send the three teams, Michael Bates, then chairman of the BEF, vowed a "complete rethink" in the build-up to Sydney.

David Robinson, a business consultant, was appointed to help the BEF and the three disciplines to decide on a new four-year plan, and to help formulate an application to the Lottery Sports Fund. Robinson, who was "delighted" with the announcement, was already on to the next task yesterday: drafting an advertisement for the position of performance director — which must be advertised nationally.

Andrew Nicholson, still smarting from the reprimand he received at Badminton ten days ago for allegedly using "less than polite" language to a fence steward, heads the field for the Chubb Insurance Windsor Horse Trials with King Leo and Valhalla, his up-and-coming young horses.

The event, which begins today in The Great Park, has two international classes for the first time and also hosts the British Junior Championships. Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion, and Pippa Funnell, a former national champion, are among the 173 starters, but Kristina Gifford, the European bronze medal-winner, is an absentee. She has a small fracture to her right leg after a fall from O'Leary at Punchestown last weekend.

Nicholson, a member of New Zealand's 1992 Olympic silver medal-winning team and the 1996 team that won the bronze, has received many letters of support following what many considered an unjust carpeting at Badminton for "throwing his whip in a violent manner ... and language that was less than polite". The incident followed a fall from Jagermeister when he was two fences from home on what had been a faultless round.

"I might have been cursing when I threw the stick at the jump, but it was not directed at the stewards," Nicholson said yesterday.

In the cross-country on Saturday, Nicholson intends to remain silent. "I'll have my whip pinned to my side and sticking plaster over my mouth," he said.



Lisa Bellinger and Paul Hurley, star British juniors in the Latin section, brew up some of that Saturday Night Fever-feeling at Bognor recently

Dancing treat in store for Latin lovers

Ruth Gledhill says home competitors will be heavily outnumbered in the Open British at Blackpool

A s nearly 4,000 competitors, nine-tenths of them from abroad, descend on Blackpool tomorrow for the biggest event in the dance sport calendar, the Open British, the future of the sport in Britain is being questioned as never before.

Marcus and Karen Hilton, the professionals, with a record eight consecutive world titles to their name, are expected to hold on to their No 1 slot, although Luca and Loraine Baricchi, the newly-married English challengers, are certain to give them a hard fight.

According to Hilton, holding on to a title is just as tough as winning it in the first place. "There are the newcomers on the block as well as the established couples," Hilton said. "So we can never be complacent. We go on the floor to prove a point. We are the best and we have to prove it."

In the Latin arena, follow-

ing the retirement of Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, world champions on 13 occasions, the threat from abroad is stronger than ever. Bryan Watson and Karen Hardy will be glad of all the support the crowd can provide when they take on the defending champions, Jukka Haapalainen and Sirpa Suutari, from Finland, in the professional section. They were second to them last May, although this result was reversed at the Star Ball in London in January.

In the amateur Latin, Matthew and Nicole Cutler, the defending champions, will be hoping to reverse a setback suffered in Austria a few days ago when they were defeated in the European championships by Holger Nitsche and

Charlotte Egstrand, of Denmark, the reigning world champions.

Uncertainty in the Latin field means these events are likely to be the most exciting to watch, particularly the highly-charged youth events, and British coaches will be keenly watching the progress of Paul Hurley and Lisa Bellinger, both 16, who have been propelled into the No 1 position in the under-21 charts by a series of partnership splits above them.

Already riding high after the World Ten dance in Austria last weekend, where they were ninth and the top-placed English couple, they flew home on Sunday to win the UK Open Ten Dance championship in Birmingham.

At the Open British, however, they will be dancing against couples aged up to 21, whereas in Europe the age limit is 19. They would like to make the semi-final this year

and are hoping for the final next year. Hurley, from Hornchurch, Essex excelled in other sports before switching to dancing at the surprisingly late age of 12. "It is a sport, in as much as it is a competitive activity in an environment which is physically demanding," he said. "But it is also very artistic."

"I had done football since I was really young, I did karate for five years and by the age of 11 I had done everything in swimming that I could do until I was 15. I had always liked music and dancing and I just felt like doing something different."

"To be a competitive dancer you have to have a cool head and keep as relaxed as possible. I'm really lucky because I do not get nervous. I get excited."

Burns said: "The problem we have in this country is that competitors from the former iron curtain countries are

hungry for success. They have a vast amount of artistry and talent. Materially, they are not living in the comfort zone like we are. There is no holding them back."

According to Keith Jones, vice-chairman of the British dance council, the future for the sport in this country is looking bleak. The council has convened two open meetings this summer to discuss the crisis.

Writing in *Dance News*, and in the June edition of the magazine of the national association of dance teachers, Jones says: "As so many championships are now won by foreign couples the writing must be on the wall."

While Olympic recognition for the sport means it could pick up in this country, that is not guaranteed. "It is estimated that in the UK there are less than 3,000 amateurs registered and only a handful of professionals," Jones says. "Most major competitions are totally dominated by foreigners."

Of more than 1,400 couples who will be competing in Blackpool over the coming week, just 182 are British.

SAILING

Rivals vie to finish in shadow of Cayard

By Our Sports Staff

THE yachts in the Whitbread Round the World Race complete their nine-month, 31,600-mile journey on Sunday, when they sail into Southampton. *EF Language*, the Swedish entry, has already secured the Volvo Trophy with overall victory but, for the rest of the fleet, there is still much to play for.

Swedish Match goes into the leg in second place with *Merit Cup* and *Chessie Racing* third and fourth respectively. *Innovation Kvaerner* is also pursuing the points for first place in the final leg and has an outside chance of finishing runner-up.

Silk Cut, the British entry, is fifth and trails *Swedish Match* by 69 points but only has a slim chance of finishing second overall. If *Silk Cut* wins the final leg and collects maximum points, and its nearest rivals finish seventh, eighth and ninth, the British yacht would then take second place.

The last leg, from La Rochelle in France, will start tomorrow and the competitors are expected to cross the finishing line on Sunday from midday onwards.

For Paul Cayard, the victorious skipper, it will bring a sense of anticlimax. "It's going to be hard to duplicate this feeling," Cayard said. "But it's sort of an anticlimax now because the win hasn't sunk in yet."

EF Language has won three of eight legs despite starting as an outsider, largely because of the relative inexperience of Cayard and the last-minute withdrawal of Nick White as navigator.

Critics had also said that Cayard was not paying enough attention to *EF Language* during training, when he was also involved in the America's Cup tournament with the *America One* team in San Francisco. But *EF Language* won the first leg and Cayard has not looked back.

Cayard said that better organisation and hard work were the keys to the victory. Crews normally take a few days off once in port, Cayard said, but his had continued to train.

"Winning the Whitbread is a climax in any sailor's life," Mark Rudiger, the navigator, said.

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DESTINATIONS	Heathrow	Belfast	East Midlands	Edinburgh	Glasgow	Leeds/Bradford	Manchester	Teeside	Dublin (exc tax)
Amsterdam	£58	£118	£58	£118	£118	£118	£118	£118	£100
Belfast	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brussels	£69	£119	—	£119	£119	£119	£119	£119	£100
Cologne	£92	£142	—	£142	£142	£142	£142	£142	£125
Dublin	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands	—	—	£50	£50	—	—	—	—	—
Edinburgh	£60	—	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frankfurt	£95	£145	—	£145	£145	£145	£145	£145	£125
Glasgow	£60	—	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heathrow	£60	—	£60	£60	£60	£60	£60	£60	£50
Leeds/Bradford	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manchester	£50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paris	£67	£117	£67	£117	£117	£117	£117	£117	£100
Prague	£153	£203	—	£203	£203	£203	£203	£203	£175
Teeside	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prices quoted are return per person. UK departures include air passenger duty plus foreign taxes. Prices quoted for Dublin departures exclude tax. All prices are correct at time of going to press, but foreign levied taxes are subject to exchange rate fluctuations. Prices applicable only when two people travel together.

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This year British Midland celebrates 60 years of high-flying success. To mark the airline's achievement, Times readers are offered the chance to win one of 500 pairs of British Midland return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for just 60p each in our exclusive prize draw. Simply collect four tokens to enter. British Midland will donate the 60p charge to Save the Children.

HOW TO ENTER Collect three differently numbered tokens from The Times and one token from The Sunday Times. Send them with the completed prize-draw entry form to appear in The Times again on Saturday, with a competition question. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by Friday, June 5, 1998. Winners will get a voucher for two return tickets from London Heathrow to Amsterdam for 60p each, subject to the terms and conditions which were published in The Times on Monday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Occasionally the best trump suit for game will be the so-called "Moyasian" 4-3 fit, named after Sonny Moyse, sometime editor of the American magazine *The Bridge World*, who had a penchant for that type of contract. The hallmarks of a sound Moyasian are strong trumps including the ace (a vital card for keeping trump control) and the ability to take ruffs in the hand with the three-card trump holding.

Dealer West	Game All	IMPs
♠ 10 2 ♥ Q 8 7 2 ♦ A J 7 4 2 ♣ 4 3	♠ 9 8 7 5 ♥ A 6 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A Q 8 5	♠ Q 5 3 ♥ J 10 9 5 4 3 ♦ 5 ♣ 10 7 2

This is from one of the recent "Goldway" matches played using the internet bridge club OKBridge. The challengers, Mark Feldman and Sharon Osberg, achieved the novelty of a successful "sub-Moyasian" 4-2 fit. Goldman's lead-directing Three Club bid persuaded Feldman to explore alternatives to the obvious Five Diamond contract, which looked doubtful on a club lead through his king-jack. He tried Three Spades and was raised to Four.

West led the ace of hearts and switched to a trump (as

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Shirov's weakness
In spite of his vast combinational abilities, Alexei Shirov suffers from a similar weakness to Garry Kasparov, namely a predilection for risky systems, particularly with Black. After a win in the first game today, the second game sees Shirov perpetually struggling in a King's Indian Defence, where Black sacrifices space and accepts certain weaknesses in his structure to obtain latent counter-attacking chances. In this instance, the strategy backfires.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Alexei Shirov
Vienna 1996

Diagram of final position

1 N3	N6
2 c4	e5
3 Nc3	Bg7
4 e4	d6
5 d4	d5
6 Bc2	e5
7 0-0	Nc6
8 d5	Ne7
9 Nf3	Nf5
10 Re1	Bf8
11 Ng5	Nf4
12 Bx4	ex4
13 Rc1	Bf6
14 Bx5	Bx5
15 dxe6	Bxc3
16 Bc3	hx4
17 Bf1	g3
18 Bc3	hx3
19 Re3	d5
20 Qc2	cd5
21 cxd5	Qd8
22 Qd4	Qf4
23 Qc5	Qf5
24 Rf3	Qf7
25 Rf7	Rd7
26 ex7+	Rd7
27 Qc7	Qd4
28 Rc3	Qb4
29 d3	Qd4
30 Qb7	Rf8
31 Qe7	d4
32 Bc+	Kf8
33 d3	Qf4
34 Bc2	Qf4
35 Qxd4	Qc1+
36 Kc2	

Black resigns

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BALDWIN
a. An apple
b. A chess end-game
c. A type of insurance policy

ALOCASIA
a. Disorientation
b. A plant
c. A rash

GAVAGE
a. A Pyrenean region
b. Force-feeding
c. Form of feudal labour

GLEYS
a. Facetious
b. A Highland sheep
c. Blue clay

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Aagard - Houcka, Hampstead, 1998. How did White make full use of his active bishops to score a quick win?

Solution on page 50

مكتبة من الأصل

RACING: LAWYER FINDS POSITION UNTENABLE AFTER SAVILL'S RISE TO POWER



Fallon produces the 20-1 chance Napoleon's Sister, centre, with a sustained challenge to land the Lupe Stakes at Goodwood yesterday

McCloy resigns from BHB

By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

MATTHEW MCCLOY is to resign from the British Horseracing Board (BHB) and yesterday he gave a vivid insight into the back-stabbing and personality conflicts which have dogged the sport's ruling body.

The Newbury-based lawyer, a founding director of the BHB and chairman of its industry committee, made his decision only days after Peter Savill was elected to succeed Lord Wakeham as chairman of the BHB.

In a revealing statement, McCloy said: "With great sorrow, I have decided to ask the industry committee, at its meeting on June 2, to release me from the moral commitment to serve my remaining two years as one of its elected BHB directors. My resignation would then be immediate or after the minimum time necessary to hand over my various BHB responsibilities in an orderly fashion."

It follows that the sustained attacks on my integrity and my character, which I am advised have been carefully and, perhaps, professionally choreographed, have succeeded. This is despite the fact that recent soundings taken for me indicate that every single one of those committee members spoken to have themselves no wish to see me go.

He continued: "Some will attribute my decision to the recent election of Peter Savill as chairman of the BHB from June 7. As this is true to an extent, it is right I explain. "Immediately after Peter's election I expressed my support for him. Those were not hollow words, as some will have them. I have a strong sense of corporate discipline, as my record for supporting past chairmen in public has shown, even to my personal detriment. If I was not prepared to work with Peter and

RICHARD EVANS Nap: Just Dissident (4.45 Goodwood)

The front-running Just Dissident showed up for a long way at Beverley on his seasonal reappearance 12 days ago and should be suited by a return to the minimum trip and today's sharp track.

Next best: Faithful Son (2.40 Goodwood)

for him, will probably be best remembered for the wrong reasons - notably when he was handcuffed during a flight to the Breeders' Cup two years ago and subsequently spent a much-publicised night in New York's police cells.

On a happier note, Olivier Pestier has been pencilled in to ride High-Rise in the Vodafone Derby at Epsom. The Luca Cumani-trained colt is unbeaten in three starts, including the Lingfield Derby trial. A total of 27 entries remain in the classic after yesterday's forfeit stage - excluding Cape Verdi, the 1,000 Guineas winner, who is likely to be added to the field at the new £75,000 supplementary entry stage on May 30.

The intriguingly named Napoleon's Sister fetched 160,000 guineas as a yearling and represented the most costly purchase made by David Elsworth but, after she came from last to first to win the Triplemint Lupe Stakes on

only her second start, the Whitbury trainer said: "I think she was cheap." He could well be proved right.

The Alzaio filly is owned by Sean and Anne Coughlan, who apart from enjoying tremendous success with Indian Ridge and Ridgewood Pearl, the Breeders' Cup Mile winner, also provided Elsworth with his first winner, Fortune Cookie at Exeter.

Elsworth explained: "She was called Napoleon's Sister because Sean had a very good horse called Ridgewood Ben and then a filly named Ridgewood Pearl. He offered me a chance to train Ridgewood Pearl but would not let me train Ridgewood Ben, whom he sent to John Oxx.

I refused Ridgewood Pearl, which was probably the biggest mistake of my life. Sean could not understand why I did not want to train a full sister to Ridgewood Ben and said: 'Who has ever heard of Napoleon's sister.'

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER 2.00 Springs Nobleque, 2.30 Rotator, 3.00 Iron Mountain, 3.30 Salmon Ladder, 4.00 Shining Cloud, 4.35 Benevolens.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 NORTHERN RACING NOVICE STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,061; 5) (4 runners) 1 (2) 31 SAMMIAL 27 (5) J. J. Fennell 28 2 (1) 31 RYECROFT 24 (6) J. J. Fennell 28 3 (3) 31 DOUBLE TWO 27 (5) J. J. Fennell 28 4 (1) 31 ROSSIELLI 27 (5) J. J. Fennell 28

2.30 HANDB CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,222; 8) (9) 1 (4) 4 J. EL JAYR 33 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 2 (7) 4 PRETTY OBVIOUS 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 3 (2) 4 MURKIN 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 4 (5) 4 BEVERLEY MERRY 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 5 (1) 4 ROTATOR 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 6 (3) 4 BRYANSTON 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 7 (8) 4 SOUNDS SWEET 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 8 (1) 4 CARWILLAS 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50 9 (2) 4 RUBY WINDY 31 (M) E. J. O'Brien 50

3.00 RENATE SERVICES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,067; 1m 3y) (20) 1 (7) 004 TAMERIN BAY 28 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 2 (1) 074 RINGLEDEN 43 (5) J. J. Fennell 70 3 (1) 074 NESTY MOON 28 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 4 (1) 074 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 5 (1) 074 HALF A NICKER 27 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 6 (1) 074 IRON MOUNTAIN 28 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 7 (1) 074 RYECROFT 24 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 8 (1) 074 DOUBLE TWO 27 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 9 (1) 074 ROSSIELLI 27 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 10 (1) 074 RUBY WINDY 24 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 11 (1) 074 MESS BUNDEL 28 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 12 (1) 074 PROLETTE 188 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 13 (1) 074 ELA FALLS 28 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 14 (1) 074 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (M) J. J. Fennell 70 15 (1) 074 STEPHANORQUE 205 (M) D. M. Harty 70 16 (1) 074 JUST MURDER 24 (M) D. M. Harty 70 17 (1) 074 JUST MURDER 24 (M) D. M. Harty 70 18 (1) 074 SHOTLEY MARSE 21 (M) D. M. Harty 70 19 (1) 074 DESPERS GOLD 43 (M) D. M. Harty 70 20 (1) 074 SHAMON SOGS 6 (M) D. M. Harty 70

4.35 ST. MODWEN MEDIAN HANDICAP MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,787; 1m 2) (3y) (8) 1 (4) 4 J. BENVENUTO 21 (M) J. J. Fennell 50 2 (3) 4 WILLOW 13 (M) J. J. Fennell 50 3 (1) 4 ALMOST GOT IT 12 (M) J. J. Fennell 50 4 (1) 4 LA TOUAIN 19 (M) J. J. Fennell 50 5 (1) 4 MELBOURNEFYSK 5 (M) J. J. Fennell 50 6 (1) 4 SHARP SARAH 15 (M) J. J. Fennell 50

4.20 WEST OF ENGLAND NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (21,453; 2m 31 11y) (11) 1 (4) 11 BLANVALE 17 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 2 (2) 11 AGNESIDE 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 3 (1) 11 AND WATSON 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 4 (1) 11 BALDWIN CHANCE 11 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 5 (2) 11 DRUM CHAT 11 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 6 (2) 11 FATHER JACK 11 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 7 (2) 11 JAMES 4 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 8 (2) 11 J. LAD 15 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 9 (2) 11 PARKMAN 12 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 10 (2) 11 ALWAYS LYNBY 11 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 11 (2) 11 FINE EATING 22 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70

EXETER

THUNDERER 2.20 Bright Eclipse, 2.50 Hi Marble, 3.20 Bayline Star, 3.50 Shumba Hills, 4.20 Blugaleto, 4.50 Copper Coll, 5.20 Specialize.

GOING: FIRM DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 NATIONAL RIDING WEEK SELLING HURDLE (21,679; 2m 2) (8 runners) 1 (3) 333 BRIGHT ECLIPSE 8 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 2 (2) 333 MILESTONE 7 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 3 (2) 333 SEE PROSPERITY 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 4 (2) 333 LORRAINE 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 5 (2) 333 GARDIA 128 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 6 (2) 333 RYECROFT 24 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 7 (2) 333 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70 8 (2) 333 DOUBLE TWO 27 (5) F. J. Nicholls 70

2.50 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (22,640; 2m 7) (8) 1 (2) 003 OLIVER'S SECRET 33 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 2 (1) 003 HI MARBLE 17 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 3 (2) 003 SPRINT LEVEL 25 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 4 (2) 003 LORRAINE 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 5 (2) 003 PREGNANT WOLF 7 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 6 (2) 003 RYECROFT 24 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 7 (2) 003 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 8 (2) 003 DOUBLE TWO 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70

3.20 SIMPKINS EDWARDS NOVICES CHASE (23,761; 2m 7 11y) (9) 1 (2) 003 BAYLINE STAR 18 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 2 (1) 003 WILLOW 13 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 3 (2) 003 BOSSO'S TOUCH 13 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 4 (2) 003 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 5 (2) 003 RYECROFT 24 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 6 (2) 003 SHOTLEY MARSE 21 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 7 (2) 003 DESPERS GOLD 43 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 8 (2) 003 SHAMON SOGS 6 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 9 (2) 003 AND WATSON 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70

3.50 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (23,178; 2m 31 11y) (9) 1 (2) 003 BAYLINE STAR 18 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 2 (1) 003 WILLOW 13 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 3 (2) 003 BOSSO'S TOUCH 13 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 4 (2) 003 MOUNTAIN BELLE 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 5 (2) 003 RYECROFT 24 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 6 (2) 003 SHOTLEY MARSE 21 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 7 (2) 003 DESPERS GOLD 43 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 8 (2) 003 SHAMON SOGS 6 (5) M. J. Ryan 70 9 (2) 003 AND WATSON 27 (5) M. J. Ryan 70

4.10 MARRIOTT GOODWOOD PARK HOTEL CONQUEROR STAKES (Listed race; £31,041; 1m) (6 runners) 1 (5) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103

4.45 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (23,435; 5) (10 runners) 1 (10) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 7 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 8 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 9 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 10 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103

10 KIDSONS IMPROY TROPHY HANDICAP (LOWCASE RACE) (23,064; 7 1/2) (20 runners) 1 (20) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (19) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (18) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (17) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (16) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (15) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 7 (14) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 8 (13) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 9 (12) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 10 (11) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 11 (10) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 12 (9) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 13 (8) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 14 (7) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 15 (6) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 16 (5) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 17 (4) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 18 (3) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 19 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 20 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER 2.10 Porto Foricos, 2.40 Faithful Son, 3.10 Chewit. Timekeeper's top rating: 4.10 DIGITALIZE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Faithful Son, 3.40 Hajr, 4.10 DIGITALIZE (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.10 A & J BULL MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,720; 1m 11) (6 runners) 1 (4) 04 FRANKLIN LINES 26 (5) C. J. Lister 70 2 (2) 04 NAL SAN MOON 19 (5) C. J. Lister 70 3 (1) 04 PERADVENTURE 17 (M) C. J. Lister 70 4 (1) 04 PORTO FORICOS 13 (M) C. J. Lister 70 5 (1) 04 SUPERNOVA 24 (5) C. J. Lister 70 6 (1) 04 SERRATA 24 (5) C. J. Lister 70

FORM FOCUS 2.40 ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT FESTIVAL STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,420; 1m 11 1/2) (5 runners) 1 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103

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GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 04-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (4) P. J. Ryan 70 103 (12) 04-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (4) P. J. Ryan 70

3.40 MOTABILITY 21ST ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (27,050; 1m 4) (8 runners) 1 (4) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 7 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 8 (1) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103

FORM FOCUS 4.10 MARRIOTT GOODWOOD PARK HOTEL CONQUEROR STAKES (Listed race; £31,041; 1m) (6 runners) 1 (5) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (2) 1 061124 LILL CLARE 12 (5) C. J. Lister 103

FORM FOCUS 4.45 RACING CHANNEL APPRENTICE HANDICAP (23,435; 5) (10 runners) 1 (10) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 2 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 3 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 4 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 5 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 6 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 7 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 8 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 9 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103 10 (2) 062304 TONN WHITE 13 (5) C. J. Lister 103

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COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: 5-10 Sun 100, 10-15 Sun 100, 15-20 Sun 100, 20-25 Sun 100, 25-30 Sun 100, 30-35 Sun 100, 35-40 Sun 100, 40-45 Sun 100, 45-50 Sun 100, 50-55 Sun 100, 55-60 Sun 100, 60-65 Sun 100, 65-70 Sun 100, 70-75 Sun 100, 75-80 Sun 100, 80-85 Sun 100, 85-90 Sun 100, 90-95 Sun 100, 95-100 Sun 100. JOCKEYS: 5-10 Sun 100, 10-15 Sun 100, 15-20 Sun 100, 20-25 Sun 100, 25-30 Sun 100, 30-35 Sun 100, 35-40 Sun 100, 40-45 Sun 100, 45-50 Sun 100, 50-55 Sun 100, 55-60 Sun 100, 60-65 Sun 100, 65-70 Sun 100, 70-75 Sun 100, 75-80 Sun 100, 80-85 Sun 100, 85-90 Sun 100, 90-95 Sun 100, 95-100 Sun 100. WINNERS: 5-10 Sun 100, 10-15 Sun 100, 15-20 Sun 100, 20-25 Sun 100, 25-30 Sun 100, 30-35 Sun 100, 35-40 Sun 100, 40-45 Sun 100, 45-50 Sun 100, 50-55 Sun 100, 55-60 Sun 100, 60-65 Sun 100, 65-70 Sun 100, 70-75 Sun 100, 75-80 Sun 100, 80-85 Sun 100, 85-90 Sun 100, 90-95 Sun 100, 95-100 Sun 100. RATES: 5-10 Sun 100, 10-15 Sun 100, 15-20 Sun 100, 20-25 Sun 100, 25-30 Sun 100, 30-35 Sun 100, 35-40 Sun 100, 40-45 Sun 100, 45-50 Sun 100, 50-55 Sun 100, 55-60 Sun 100, 60-65 Sun 100, 65-70 Sun 100, 70-75 Sun 100, 75-80 Sun 100, 80-85 Sun 100, 85-90 Sun 100, 90-95 Sun 100, 95-100 Sun 100.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hughes in surprise return to St Helens

By Christopher Irvine

A QUESTION mark regarding Shaun McRae's future as St Helens coach was raised yesterday with the surprise reappointment of Eric Hughes.

As Football Operations Manager, one of Hughes's first jobs when he starts in July will be to work with the directors who dismissed him on appointing a head coach.

Malcolm Reilly, the former Britain coach, who inspired Newcastle Knights to their first Australian Rugby League title last year and is due home at the end of the season, would be a leading candidate for any vacancy.

Hughes, who received notification that he was making way for John Monie at Wigan last season via a note on his car, said: "Nobody's job is threatened by my arrival. The first few weeks I'll assess the whole coaching set up. I feel I was successful at both Wigan and Saints, although I was surprised at being asked back.

Hockey World Cup: Ambitious squad seeks to begin with conquest of Spain

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN UTRECHT

THERE are no injury worries for the England men's team who start their World Cup challenge here this evening with a match against Spain, the silver medal-winners at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

After completing the preparations that began last September and included a training camp in Sicily, the 16 England players have high hopes of improving on the sixth place that they achieved in Sydney four years ago.

At centre half, the tireless Justin Pidcock marshals his forces skilfully around him. These include Duncan Woods, James Wallis and Jason Lee, who can alternate as a forward.

DETAILS

ENGLAND SQUAD: S Mason (Reading), D Luckies (East Fife), J Wallis (Hull), W Waugh (Southampton), C Giles (Preston), J Lee (Oldham), A Humphrey (Canterbury), B Gerrard (Reading), J Pidcock (Canterbury), J Wallis (Reading), S Sharpe (Canterbury), R Garcia (Hull), D Woods (Southgate), M Peem (Reading), N Thompson (Oldham).

FIXTURES: Today: Pool A: Germany v India, South Korea v New Zealand, Holland v Canada. Pool B: Poland v Australia, Malaysia v Pakistan, Spain v England. Tomorrow: Pool A: New Zealand v Germany, Canada v South Korea, India v Holland, Poland v Malaysia, Australia v Spain.

the three front-runners are usually Ben Sharpe, Russell Garcia and Nick Thompson, with Mark Pearn, the youngest in the squad at 21, operating as a valuable substitute.

Garcia's natural gifts enable him to create opportunities at centre forward and he can also capitalise on short corners and penalty strokes. At short corners, Calum Giles remains supreme as he continues to turn the fortunes of a game England's way with his conversions.

He was not available for the six nations tournament at Ipoh, Malaysia, in March, and had been there, England would have secured a higher placing than fifth. Great things are expected of him here.

In the few weeks before the departure from London for the World Cup, England faced only moderate opposition but their two victories against New Zealand at Milton Keynes last week enabled them to find belief in themselves.

Spain has always caused problems for England but they were in Atlanta, a fact emphasised by a recent 7-3 defeat against Holland in a tour match. Last September England played Spain twice, winning 2-1 and drawing 1-1, results that should give England a psychological advantage.

England's second match, on Saturday, is against the holders, Pakistan. It should be some comfort to England that they have not lost to Pakistan in the World Cup. Of the four matches played between the countries so far, England have won two and the others have been drawn.



Annan is more concerned with being a member of the best team in the world rather than the best-dressed

Annan refuses to skirt issue as glamour game draws critics

How did you find Holland? was a question once asked by a Noel Coward character. "Flat," came the deadpan reply. It is not the experience that Alyson Annan can expect over the next ten days. Widely regarded as the best woman hockey player in the world, she is the midfield player-forward in the best team in the world, Australia.



SARAH POTTER

The Australians are also the Olympic champions and Annan, 24, has already earned 150 caps. "I still get the same buzz each time we're at a major tournament," she said. "But we don't go in expecting to win. Four years ago at the last World Cup, we had Russia in the first game and thought they weren't going to be so good. We lost and I think that was the biggest lesson we ever learnt."

Anyone watching the Australians playing England at Milton Keynes last week would surely acknowledge that their best is sufficient to bring even the most partisan spectators to the edge of their seats. In the first of the two matches, England showed a defiant swagger themselves but the 2-2 draw was hardly an accurate reflection of Australia's attacking dominance.

Thirty-one shots on goal to England's nine doesn't come out that well," Annan said. "We were still a little jet lagged after flying in a few days before, but that's no excuse for only scoring two goals."

Annan was miffed about Australia's inability to find the net, she was downright bewildered by England's attempt to publicise the games. In an alleged effort to widen the game's appeal, the English Hockey Association (EHA) chose to show 18-year-old Lucilla Wright, England's youngest World Cup player, lying in seductive pose, draped in black dress and red lipstick, with the caption "8.30pm. My Place."

"We would do it rather differently," Annan said. "Being ranked No 1 in the world, as we have been for about three years, seems a better way to go about it. We didn't so much object to the picture as the words in newspaper articles that followed."

They included Monica Pickersgill, the president of the EHA, saying: "We want to show that normal, sexy, boy-interested girls play hockey and you don't have to look like a horse."

Annan launched her usual, accurate tackle. "It was like saying that this is the only way we can make the women's game non-butch. International hockey is not about that and we don't have to glamorise ourselves to feel like we're ladies."

Having the Olympic Games in your home city has to be the best thing that could happen in anyone's sporting life," she said. "By then I'd like to be a fitter, more consistent player. I'm always willing to learn how to do things better. Image, it seems, should be the least of the opposition's worries."

Wright's goal has calming influence

FROM CATHY HARRIS IN UTRECHT

LUCILLA WRIGHT celebrated her World Cup debut with the superb first-half strike that gave England a 1-0 victory over India yesterday in their opening match of the tournament here.

The result came as a huge relief to a squad that has had to be reshuffled because of serious injuries to two Olympic strikers, Tina Cullen and Mandy Nicholls.

Maggie Souyave, the England coach, admitted it had been a disappointing performance. But said: "First games are never easy and we struggled to break India down. But we should have done better with all the possession we had."

Kirsty Bowden, the captain, Wright and Jennie Bimson were all solid in midfield as England controlled the early stages. The decisive goal came in the nineteenth minute when Wright collected the rebound from Jane Smith's ferocious corner shot and unleashed an unstoppable drive.

Wright, 18, said: "I took it on the half-volley and just hit it as hard as I could. Unable to sustain the pressure after the interval, England never managed another shot on target."

India, sensing the chance of snatching a point, pushed forward but although they created several scoring opportunities England held firm during an uncomfortable final ten minutes.

Souyave described today's match against Holland as "the big one," adding: "It will be the first time we've played in the main stadium and it will be in front of a capacity crowd of 15,000. I don't envisage making any drastic changes, although we may alter our tactics slightly."

Australia showed that they intend to make a successful defence of their crown when they swept Scotland aside 5-0. The Scots seceded from the Olympic gold medal winners and had Tracey Robb, their goalkeeper, to thank for keeping the scoreline respectable.

A goal from a penalty corner by Bianca Langham and a wonderful individual effort by Julie Towers gave the Australians a 2-0 lead at the interval. Katrina Powell made it 3-0 ten minutes after the restart before Alyson Annan flicked one of her penalty corner specials past Sue Lawrie. Powell netted her second from close range five minutes from time. Scotland have a rest day today before meeting the United States tomorrow.

Pietie Coetzee, South Africa's prolific teenage goalscorer, enhanced her reputation as one of the world's best players when she whipped in goals from penalty corners in each half to help her side to a 2-1 win over China.

ENGLAND: H Rose (Gloucester), J Empson (Canterbury), J Bimson (Canterbury), K Brown (South), J Mould (Leicester), L Wright (Oxon), K Bowden (Leicester), captain, J Bimson (Leicester), S Maudslayi (Canterbury), S Smith (Gloucester), S Subashi (Canterbury), J Copeland (South), K Moore (Oxon), F Greenham (Oxon).

INDIA: H Inozoni, H Soy, S Kaur (captain), M Threy, S Teta, M Kaur, K Datta, S Gusan, H Khosla, P Rana, S Devi, Subashini, R Bala, J Kulk, S Chana, Umprave, H Chasus (USA) and U Conen (Germany).

SCOTLAND: T Robb (Gloucester), V Neil (Edinburgh Ladies), A Denton (Gloucester), C Corcoran (Edinburgh Ladies), J Jack (Edinburgh Ladies), D Renison (Edinburgh Ladies), H Walker (Gloucester), S Gilmore (Hull), J Robertson (Grove), S Maudslayi (South), R Simpson (Edinburgh Ladies), Subashi (Canterbury), F Pearson (Edinburgh Ladies), J Fraser (Oxon), A Gerra (Edinburgh Ladies), L Burton (Edinburgh Ladies).

AUSTRALIA: J Sover, J Heston, K Jahn, K Stare, R Garand, M Mott, F Smith, L Powell, R Howies (Leicester), F Prough, A Annan, H Howies, J Towers, C Mitchell-Taverner, A Peck, B Langham, C Maitland, Umprave, Lee M, Ch (South Korea) and J Pickersgill (England).

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS. The four top scorers in the individual. Stableford competition played this company golf day. The top scorers in the company are eligible to qualify for a regional final. Mees Pierson. Table with columns: Date, Company Name, Venue, Achieved Score. Includes entries for 6 APR, 14 APR, 30 APR, 1 MAY, 4 MAY, 5 MAY, 6 MAY, 7 MAY, 7 MAY, 7 MAY, 8 MAY, 8 MAY, 9 MAY, 12 MAY, 13 MAY.

Times Challenge continues to grow in strength

IT IS the proud boast of The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge that it has grown every year since its launch six years ago, and 1998 is proving to be no exception. As the end of May approaches, more than 500 registrations have been received at Challenge headquarters, an 11 per cent increase over last year.

and expanding response from the business world. "We have known from the start that we have had a high-quality event on our hands," he said. "I think one of the main reasons we continue to grow at such a healthy rate is that we are constantly thinking of ways to improve and enhance the competition for the companies that enter. Innovations that we have introduced this year demonstrate our desire to make the Challenge better and better for people playing in it."

our competitors that we will do everything in our power to make the Challenge better for them. It is our earnest desire to have a totally balanced competition and, judging from the feedback that we have had, this is a welcome addition to the rules of engagement for the event."

Loss of B... likely to... Wales f... Woodward op... door for Win... LORDA keeps Americans in check

RUGBY UNION

Loss of Bateman likely to weaken Wales further

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Wales have found difficulty enough completing their tour party to visit southern Africa next month but they may yet have to make a further damaging adjustment if they lose Allan Bateman. The Richmond centre, one of only three British Isles players in the squad, requires an operation to his nose and his club has told the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) that it should not be delayed.

Bateman, 32, damaged his nose playing against Wasps at the end of last year and still suffers discomfort. That his form has still been good enough to make him one of the players of the European season makes him even more valuable to Wales, who are without 16 players who would normally have been in the running for tour places.

TOUR PARTY

BACKS: D Weatherley (Swansea), D Williams (Llanelli), G Evans (Llanelli), James (Pontypridd), W Proctor (Llanelli), R Price (Swansea), A Bateman (Richmond), I Davies (Cardiff), Trefor (Swansea), Woodward (Ebbw Vale), B Hayward (Ebbw Vale), A Thomas (Swansea), R Howley (Cardiff), P John (Pontypridd).

THAT quartet does not include Kingsley Jones, the Vale captain. Nor is there a place for Mike Voyle, the Llanelli lock, and Neil Boobyer, the Llanelli centre, both of whom were in the starting line-up for the ill-fated game with France at Wembley in April.

Woodward opens door for Windo

By DAVID HANDS

GLOUCESTER, who already have five players involved with England on their tour of the southern hemisphere this summer, had a sixth added yesterday when Tony Windo, the loose-head prop, was brought into the party. Windo, who has captained his club several times this season, restores the squad to 37 after the withdrawal this week of Will Greenwood, of Leicester.

Woodward, the England coach, has decided not to replace Greenwood directly because he already has enough cover in midfield. Windo, a solid scrumman and useful ball-carrier, has been increasingly impressive for his club this season and earns a senior representative place for the first time at the age of 29.



Pollock, with the financial muscle to shake up the established teams, now needs a reliable engine and top driver

Pollock revs up for fast start

The shirt was dazzling white, the cuff links gold, the tie silk, the suit dark. Craig Pollock was power-dressed for the negotiating table, hoping to make a multimillion-pound deal for engines for his new racing team.

Kevin Eason meets the former schoolteacher with ambitions to make a splash in Formula One

our closet," Pollock said. He looks younger than his 42 years, is tanned and fit and has bright blue eyes that steadfastly hold the gaze. His soft Falkirk burr rarely betrays emotion.

Pollock's talent as a dealmaker drew British American Tobacco into the team, with sponsorship worth an estimated £50 million a year, a package that will put BAR among the best-financed teams in the sport.

TENNIS

Korda keeps Americans in check

THE Czech Republic moved a step closer to reaching the final of the World Team Cup after beating the United States 2-1 yesterday. Australia, meanwhile, kept themselves in contention with a 2-1 win over Sweden.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for various sports: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Cricket, Golf, Tennis, Hockey, Ice Hockey, Paragliding, Rugby Union, Sailing, and Cycling.

HOBBIES

Table with columns for various hobbies: Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Cricket, Golf, Tennis, Hockey, Ice Hockey, Paragliding, Rugby Union, Sailing, and Cycling.

TENNIS

Table with columns for tennis events: Wimbledon, US Open, Australian Open, French Open, Davis Cup, Fed Cup, and other international tournaments.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Table with columns for various sports: British duo ousted in qualifiers, Pools dividends, and other brief news items.

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

Table with columns for racing and cricket services, including contact information and rates.

Prudential advertisement for Prutour 55, featuring a large '2' and text about cycling and insurance services.

Scotland confident of good showing

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Scotland chief coach, Jim Telfer, arrived in Brisbane yesterday with his depleted squad at the start of their eight-match tour of Fiji and Australia, insisting that he would not have made the trip if he did not think they were capable of beating the host nations.

Telfer shrugged off the absence of several leading players from his party and confidently predicted that a batch of potential World Cup prospects would emerge from his fresh wave of young talent.

In addition, he forecast that the Test careers of absent and battle-weary veterans, such as Alan Tait and Gary Armstrong, of Newcastle, could be at an end if the new brigade take their chances to shine.

With the first encounter against Fiji less than a week away, Telfer would not be getting his preparations into top gear. Less than two hours after checking into their plush base at Broadbeach on Queensland's Gold Coast, he put the squad through a gruelling morning session of jogs and sprints.

Then, despite their 27-hour journey, they were back on the training pitch in the late afternoon for an even more rigorous ball-skills stint. The danger of sunstroke was their biggest problem, however, rather than fatigue or jet-lag.

"Quite a few of the squad are fair-skinned and they need to be especially careful - even though it is almost the middle of winter here," Telfer said. "Everyone must wear sun barrier cream of at least factor-15 strength."

On the build-up to the match with Fiji in Suva, Telfer said: "It is a risk for the first tour match to be a Test, but rugby at this level is a risky business and we need a stiff workout as early as possible. We need to be battle-hardened before facing the likes of New South Wales and Queensland, who will be very tough opposition."

Looking further ahead to the internationals against Australia, he added: "This squad is capable of beating the Wallabies. I wouldn't take a team abroad unless I thought we had a chance of winning."

Referring to the absence of Tait and Armstrong, Telfer said: "I was disappointed at first but it doesn't bother me so much now. Both are well over 30 and I think their bodies need a rest. That can't train for two or three days after games nowadays. His body is near the end of the line as far as top-class rugby is concerned."

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CRICKET

Trent Bridge still waiting for long-lost revival spark

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE season has not yet taken a proper shape but already one thing is clear: Nottinghamshire are playing rotten cricket. As the big new stand at the Radcliffe Road End goes up, altering the landscape of that most charming ground, so the team that plays at Trent Bridge goes down, down, down.

Another defeat on Tuesday, in the Axa League fixture against Gloucestershire, means that they have lost six successive matches, in three different competitions. This was not the start they had in mind when they worked hard and long throughout the winter to procure the services of Jason Gallian, Paul Strang and Alex Wharf.

The great Trent Bridge revival, like the great Liberal revival, is always being predicted but somehow never takes root. The necessary ingredients are there — a Test

cricket was straight-laced and cautious to the point of bewilderment. Off the field they lost one coach, John Birch, in circumstances that were never made public, and another, Mike Hendrick, who never really settled. The place seemed to be falling apart.

Paul Johnson, in his third year as captain, has done his best to restore a bit of ambition. He has never had a strong bowling attack at his disposal and the batting lacks depth. Strang was brought in to introduce variety in one sphere, Gallian resolution in the other. What happens? Gallian gets injured almost as soon as he arrives, and is out of action for a month.

The match against Warwickshire, which begins at Edgbaston today, is a test of their seriousness. Are they going to go bumbling on, making up the numbers, or are they intent on playing proper cricket? Noel Gie, who has made the most of his chances, is in the team and Paul Franks, the bowling all-rounder, also plays. Usman Alzaiq bats up the order, in Gallian's stead, and Robinson, at the ripe age of 39, reverts to his old opener's spot.

Warwickshire have their own cracks to paper over. Trevor Penney, Andy Moles, Darren Altree, Keith Piper and Tim Munton are missing through injury and Nick Knight and Ashley Giles are with England for the Texaco Trophy Internationals. Tony Frost deputises for Piper, and there may even be a rare place in the championship team for Gladstone Small.

Stuart Law stands by to lead Essex against Lancashire at Chelmsford, in the absence of Paul Prichard, who is still unable to play, and Nasser Hussain, who was summoned to the Oval yesterday to cover for Graham Thorpe. Lancashire, who are almost certainly without Peter Martin and Ian Austin, will turn to Glen Chapple and Richard Green.

David Boon, who broke his toe in a "domestic" two weeks ago, returns to the Durham squad for the match with Kent at Canterbury but will not play unless he feels that the break has healed. Another Australian, Michael Slater, certainly plays for Derbyshire at Horsham now that he is over the hand injury that kept him out for three weeks. Simon Lacey, an off spinner, is included in the party.

TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	BT	BB	PP
Surrey (8)	1	1	0	0	12	54	25
Sussex (16)	1	1	0	0	12	54	25
Nottingham (6)	1	1	0	0	7	10	36
Warwickshire (4)	1	1	0	0	7	10	36
Durham (17)	1	1	0	0	5	5	32
Northants (10)	1	1	0	0	4	4	33
Derbyshire (16)	1	1	0	0	4	4	30
Gloucestershire (7)	1	1	0	0	2	2	30
Kent (2)	1	1	0	0	1	1	30
Glamorgan (1)	1	1	0	0	1	1	28
Lancashire (10)	1	1	0	0	1	1	26
Worcestershire (3)	1	1	0	0	1	1	26
Essex (14)	1	1	0	0	1	1	26
Lancashire (11)	1	1	0	0	1	1	17
Essex (8)	1	1	0	0	1	1	17
Somerset (12)	1	1	0	0	1	1	15
Hampshire (14)	1	1	0	0	1	1	4

Last year's positions in brackets

match ground, a rich history and an acquaintance with success in the recent past — but they are no nearer finding the spark now than they were two, four or six years ago.

Between 1987 and 1991 the men of Nottingham won all four domestic trophies and, so long as they had experienced men such as Chris Broad, Eddie Hemmings and, to be fair to him, Tim Robinson, who was a very good player indeed, the team was always competitive. Decay set in under Robinson's long-dour term in office as captain when it was more evident to outsiders than those within the camp that the team lacked drive.

In no time at all Nottinghamshire came to represent all that was most stifling about English cricket. "Hold back the young'uns" could have been the club motto. Their

South Africa play their wild card

Simon Wilde on an all-rounder whose nonconformity lights up the cricket field

In the fags versus fitness debate ignited by Paul Gascoigne, a plume of smoke threatens to rise from an unlikely quarter. The South Africa cricket team — the non-inhaling, tirelessly jogging, early-to-bed, politically correct Proteas — has within its square world one very round peg. It is a moot point as to whether Pat Symcox or his energetic colleagues breathe more easily.

Symcox, who drinks, smokes and has been known to visit nightclubs, would not score highly if Ali Bacher, the spiritual architect of his country's cricket, were to produce an Identikit picture of his ideal player for the new millennium.

Symcox is incapable of conforming. He is also white. Bacher is keen that senior white players make way for young non-whites so that the national team represents South Africa's ethnic diversity. Symcox, 38, keeps Paul Adams, a Cape Coloured, out of the one-day side, which begins the Texaco Trophy series against England at the Oval today, and intends to play for as long as possible.

He could well do so because, despite his reputation, he works hard at his game and has made himself a highly competent fielder. In fact, since first playing for South Africa five years ago, he has steadily improved his all-round game each year. He is proof that living a "normal" life can be good for your health.

"If you have got 11 dour guys trying to bat out a living you will play your cricket that way," Symcox dared to suggest after South Africa's conservatism cost them a Test series in Australia earlier this year.

The Australian crowds paid a great compliment to Symcox, who, as the eldest statesman on the international circuit, is literally the oldest swinger in town. After he took time out from fielding to respond to their banter, they threw ice-cubes and pieces of chicken at him. In Australia, compliments to visitors do not come much higher. With Symcox, everything is very much on display, in stark contrast to many of his teammates, tutored by reserved Afrikaaner captains trained to suppress their feelings.



Symcox, a free spirit who has prospered in the South Africa one-day set-up, turns his arm in the nets at the Oval yesterday

with the authorities — he was fined a token sum for defecating in the bushes. He has been seen at Durban recently — but he generally ends the day with a smile on his face and a beer in his hand. Amateur psychologists might like to draw their own conclusions from the fact that when South Africa failed to win in Australia, the fingerprints discovered on a stump speared through the door of the umpires' room at the end of the series belonged not to Symcox but Hansie Cronje, the captain.

Symcox plays with the freedom of a recently freed spirit. Four years ago he was ready to retire after making a second international tour, but his company refused to give him more leave so he took a gamble and turned in a promising job in hospital management to play full-time. As a family man, it was a risk but his unusual perspective paid dividends.

Originally chosen by South Africa for his off-spin bowling, he has developed into a combative all-rounder capable of turning matches with his big hitting from the lower order. Seven months ago, a brace of sixes resolved a close-fought final in a one-day tournament in Pakistan and, in February, he became only the third batsman in Test history to score a century from No 10.

Though he can turn the ball big distances, Symcox has never been a match-winner in Test cricket and was actually dropped after making his implausible hundred. His place was also in doubt for the tour of England and critics were updating their obituaries of him as a player as the South African season neared its conclusion.

Minor counties begin to feel winds of change

MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

AFTER five successive defeats for their representative team in the Benson & Hedges Cup, the minor counties turn to domestic matters when a transitional season starts with four matches on Sunday. Devon, the champions, are in action against Dorset at Bovey Tracey.

When the England and Wales Cricket Board produced the Raising the Standard document, there were fears that the 20-strong minor counties competition, founded in 1895, might disappear.

Instead, the part-timers have to contend with a radically different structure. Championship games are still of two days' duration but a two-year experiment involves each county playing three one-innings games, spanning 120 overs-a-side.

The idea is to reduce the number of games being decided on the generosity, or otherwise, of declarations, allowing the better sides to flourish.

Once again, 11 minor counties have qualified on the basis of last season's championship for the NatWest Trophy first round on June 24. All 20 will appear in the expanded competition next summer when the abolition of the Benson & Hedges Cup means minor

counties will have to look elsewhere for representative fixtures.

The other change this summer relates to the MCC Trophy, in which the minor counties are joined by the 18 first-class county board XI's, with the exception of Glamorgan. The competition, already underway, is divided into eight groups, with the winners qualifying for the quarter finals. Results so far include Northumberland's 108-run victory over Yorkshire.

Ashley Metcalfe, the former Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire batsman, marked his debut for Cumberland with a half-century in the three-wicket win over Cheshire at Neston. Other former first-class players appearing at minor counties level for the first time are Steve Andrew, the former Hampshire and Essex seam bowler, who has joined Hertfordshire, and Andy Pick, 34, who was with Nottinghamshire for 15 years, has joined Cambridgeshire.

Gordon Parsons, the former Leicestershire bowler who is presently in South Africa, is to play for Lincolnshire and makes his debut against Staffordshire at Bourne on Sunday week. Parsons first played in the championship for Buckinghamshire at the age of 17. John Hughes, formerly with Northamptonshire, will play for Bedfordshire and Peter Wellings, the former Middlesex batsman, has joined his native Staffordshire.

Adam Cole, previously on the Lord's staff, and James Bovill, who has played for Hampshire, will play for Buckinghamshire. Paul Thomas, the seam bowler, who took five West Indies wickets on his debut for Worcestershire three years ago, has returned to Shropshire.

No refunds for abandoned Kingston Test

THE West Indies Cricket Board is refusing to pay any compensation to tour operators or those England supporters who lost money, or had their holidays curtailed, when the first Test match in Kingston was abandoned after 50 minutes of play in January.

"In spite of legal threats from us, the board's lawyers have sent back a letter effectively saying, 'sue us if you dare'," Drew Foster, the chairman of International Travel Connection, the biggest tour operator to the Caribbean, said.

"His standpoint is that the decision to call the Test off was taken by the captains and the match referee. So our lawyers, who are representing four travel firms, are saying that negligence would be hard to prove."

"People who were on charter flights were in the worst position because they were

EXTRA

COVER

unable to change them. They will not want to go back to West Indies, although I am sure the board will never allow what occurred to happen again. It was too relaxed and has done itself no favours in terms of staging World Cups in the future."

Bird watching
That best-selling author Dickie Bird an honorary life member of his native Yorkshire, plans to stand for the committee at the annual meeting next spring. "I do not want to sit at home doing nothing after I retire from umpiring at the end of the season," he said. "I would watch the side at home and away."

Grace on canvas
W. G. is much in demand this year. Not only will Archibald Worley's unfinished portrait

be included in the forthcoming exhibition at Lord's to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth, it should be back on display at the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) by the end of the season.

In return, MCC is lending the NPG the famous Worley painting of Grace at the crease, resplendent in brown boots, for an exhibition of sporting heroes that will run from October to January.

Rightful stage
Jim Troughton, a young batsman, is making a favourable impression with the Warwickshire 2nd XI, recently scoring a hundred against Kent. His is the grandson of Patrick Troughton, famous for playing Dr Who, and the son of David Troughton, a renowned member of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Although Jim is said to be reluctant to extend this dynas-

ty of the boards, it is appropriate, nevertheless, that he plays at weekends for Stratford-upon-Avon CC.

Each way bet
Ted Dexter offered a critical analysis of one-day cricket in a newspaper on Monday. "Let us remember it can be pretty dull," he said, before dismissing a suggestion that more emphasis should be placed on this form of the game.

Surely this cannot be the same Ted Dexter as the one who writes a regular column in the Axa League programme under the title "Classic Cricket"?

FATHER TIMES

House fails to stop Durham

FENNER'S (final day of three): Durham beat Cambridge University by 85 runs

By JOHN STERN
House's entertaining innings of 65, made from 76 balls, did not prevent Durham, who declared overnight 337 runs ahead, completing a comfortable victory with 16 overs and three balls of the final hour's quota remaining. Simon Brown, who had taken six for 17 in the first innings, claimed the crucial wicket of House, who mistimed a drive to Killeen at

mid-on off a slower ball.

House has two first-class centuries to his name and, of the student batsmen on show here, he was a cut above. He drives keenly at anything pitched up to him and possesses a fierce square cut.

Nicky Phillips, the spectated off spinner who is in his first season with Durham after joining from Sussex, took career-best figures of four for 53, including the valuable top-order wickets of Pyemont and Hughes, the acting captain. He also removed Imran Mohammed, son of the former Pakistan and Gloucestershire opener Sadiq, who batted sensibly for his 42.

The day ended well for two Durham players making their debuts. Both Gough, who made a maiden first-class century in the first innings, and Daley took their maiden first-class wickets with off spin and medium-pace respectively.

Injuries lead to limp ending

THE PARKS (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Warwickshire

By BARNEY SPENDER
Giddins and Brown but, with the championship in mind, they were used sparingly.

There was consolation for Warwickshire in the performance of Ostler, who took advantage of some sloppy Oxford bowling to make 133 not out, his first first-class century since June 1995. Resuming on 38, Ostler moved swiftly past the 50 mark and marched gratefully to a hundred from 104 balls with a flurry of boundaries.

crunch, and an extended spell for Michael Powell, the 16th Warwickshire bowler to be used. It also guaranteed a tame end to what had been a competitive game.

The Oxford batting, especially when Mullins, their Ireland opener, had gone for 44, did not have the beef to chase the 285 they needed for a rare win, in spite of the Warwickshire bowling. True, they had

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SCOREBOARD FROM FENNER'S

Team	1st Innings	2nd Innings
DURHAM	337 (120.5)	65 (76)
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY	252 (119.5)	65 (76)

SCOREBOARD FROM THE PARKS

Team	1st Innings	2nd Innings
WARWICKSHIRE	285 (111)	133 (104)
OXFORD UNIVERSITY	133 (111)	133 (104)

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Matt Dickinson on the England coach's determination to go by the book

Hodde demands best behaviour



Beckham and the other England players must ensure that they do not step out of line

They had better start running the bath in France now if the tales of refereeing clampdowns at the World Cup this summer are right. Certainly, Glenn Hodde, the England coach, does not doubt Fifa's determination to stamp out dangerous play and he warned this week of games being reduced to a farcical "eight versus eight" through an epidemic of red cards.

It is in the hope of ensuring that England are not swept away in Fifa's clean-up campaign that Hodde has brought in Paul Durkin this week to referee England's training sessions. The FA Carling Premiership official, who will be England's representative in the summer, has enjoyed positive feedback from the players, but he has done nothing to reduce the alarmist stories which suggest that the tournament is most likely to be won by the team with the cleanest defence as much as the most dangerous attack.

Durkin has already informed Alan Shearer that his lunge at Tony Adams in the FA Cup Final on Saturday would have merited a red card in France rather than the yellow he escaped with at Wembley. "He didn't hurt Tony, but it was a reckless challenge and Fifa have said that any tackle which endangers the safety of an opponent is a sending-off offence," the referee said.

"A lot of players still don't understand the new interpretations. I think the likelihood is that there will be a spate of dismissals at the World Cup. I don't want to be alarmist but players will have to be 100 per cent sure in their judgment when they go in for tackles."

It is not just the Butts, Batts and Inces, though, that have caused worry. The referees have also been ordered to clamp down on dissent and that is one area where David Beckham has often talked himself into problems. On occasions, he has used some distinctly gutter language.

The aggrieved throwing of the arms and the petulant complaints about free kicks have already landed him in trouble, the 23-year-old missing the climax of Le Tournoi last summer because of two needless cautions. Hodde is determined to ensure no repeat.

"It is going to be a big problem during the World Cup and that is why we have brought Paul Durkin in," he said. "People talk about David Butts and Paul Ince and the more combative players in the squad. But I will also be having a word with the likes of David Beckham."

"Some of the things I have seen this season will earn players red cards, not just the yellow they are used to, and I do not only mean tackles and fouls. In David's case, it is about how he reacts when the ball is dead. You can't talk to referees in the World Cup and hope it will be ignored. Often it

and made me appreciate that there will be things that go on and yellow cards given out for things you don't think are right. You've got to try to keep your mouth shut."

While England were initially frustrated to see that their first game would be on the sixth day of the tournament, the flip side is that they will have plenty of opportunities to observe how referees are interpreting the new guidelines.

With each official only guaranteed one game in France, and Fifa watching their every move, the pressure on the referees to perform or face an early flight home will be as intense as that on the players. "Games will be refereed to the letter rather than the spirit of the law," Durkin said. "Fifa made it clear that they expect referees to adhere to these instructions so there will be huge pressure on whoever takes the first game between Scotland and Brazil."

As Durkin rightly points out, in the event of the inevitable controversy, it is the players who should look at themselves rather than blaming the referees, who are simply following orders. They have, after all, been warned.

Whether footballers can change the tackling habits of a lifetime in the space of a few weeks remains to be seen. But with the stricter rules due to be extended into the Premiership next season, they have little option.

'Games will be refereed to the letter, not the spirit, of the law'

can be one word and the card will be out."

Beckham is repentant. "I think I did learn from last summer," he said. "I missed out on playing Brazil which was very disappointing. If I was in a World Cup and I couldn't play them or another big team like that it would be even more so."

"I didn't think the two bookings I got last summer were justified, but the boss sat me down and talked about it



Beckham shows the sort of dissent that Hodde is anxious to eliminate from the Manchester United player's game

Amateur status small price for a Lamborghini

John Hopkins delights in good fortune of professional colleague

Amateur golfers the world over will sympathise with Derek Lawrenson, who had to make the biggest decision of his golfing life yesterday afternoon after he had won a Lamborghini Diablo for being in one during a program. Should he take the £189,000 car, make a fast getaway — and say goodbye to competitive amateur golf? Or should he forego this enormous prize in order to continue to enjoy the pleasures of membership at Moor Hall, his club in Birmingham, and of competitions with his fellow golf writers?

For Lawrenson, it was the stuff of dreams. He arrived on tee of the 198-yard, 15th hole at Mill Ride golf club, swung a three-iron and holed out. The world, on a glorious summer's day, took on an even rosier hue.

I got my first hole in one two months ago, after 45 years of trying. I won nothing and was happy to pay for three magnums of Bollinger to be consumed by my friends. Lawrenson, for his sixth hole in one, won a vastly expensive car. Some people have all the luck.

Lawrenson is a left-hander who holed in one when we played together in the Canary Islands ten years ago. His handicap, once one, is now seven, but there are times when the fluency of his swing and the purity of his striking reveal that he was once good enough to compete in the Lytham Trophy and to have hit balls on a practice ground alongside Sandy Lyle and Mark James.

Yesterday Lawrenson, the golf correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, was not only playing with footballers — he was playing with Steve MacManaman and Paul Ince, two stars of Liverpool, the club at which he holds season tickets. To have played with them on a

summer's day, and to have played well, would have been more than enough. To hole in one and win such a prize — his cup was surely running over.

But should he take the car? If he did so, according to Grant Moir, assistant secretary (rules) of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, he would forfeit his amateur status and it could take ten years for him to regain it.

In this time Lawrenson, now known as a non-amateur, would be able to compete only in events at which the organisers were prepared to grant him a temporary handicap.

Moor Hall might be prepared to do so for internal club competitions as might P G Wodehouse's Wrecking Crew, otherwise known as the Association of Golf Writers, but equally, they might not.

If Lawrenson was worried at missing out on some of the competitive camaraderie of golf he could, so long as he did not handle the car, immediately hand it over to charity. He could decline to receive the car and accept instead a sum of money to commemorate his feat. But this sum would be a maximum of £200.

A hard decision? Not really. Croesus might walk away from the car because he had a bob or two, as might Jimmy Patino who has golden rules down at Valderrama — he has the gold so he makes the rules. But the opportunity to receive a payment — greater, just, than his salary from *The Sunday Telegraph* — is surely one that Lawrenson and almost any other amateur put in a similar position would leap at.

I often said jokingly when we played together that he was a lucky golfer, and particularly when he had narrowly beaten me, by 5 and 4, say. Now he has proved it. Good luck to him.

Seven ills of Roma have Iran coach Ivic counting the cost

IRAN dismissed Tomislav Ivic, their Croatian coach, yesterday, only three weeks before the start of the World Cup finals. Iran lost 7-1 to AS Roma, the Serie A team, on Tuesday night.

According to a report from a news agency in Iran, Ivic has been replaced by Jalal Talebi, a member of the Iran team in the early 1960s and coach of the Indonesia Olympic team in 1966. Talebi was appointed technical adviser to the World Cup squad earlier this month.

Ivic, 64, was appointed in January on a six-month contract to succeed Brazilian Valdeir Vieira, who took Iran to only their second final by winning the final World Cup qualifier against Australia in November. Vieira was in charge for only two months after the previous coach had been dismissed.

Ivic coached Paris St Germain, Marseilles and Ajax in a career that saw him serve as vice-president of Hajduk Split, the club with which he achieved his first significant success in the 1970s.

But Iran were jettisoned off the field in Tehran after Ivic's first

match, a 2-0 loss to Hungary, and the Croatian increasingly failed to satisfy the country's football-mad fans and its politically-charged federation.

Subsequent lacklustre performances on a tour of France exacerbated the situation and Ivic found himself defending his record and tactics on national television.

Last week, Ivic predicted that Iran would beat either Yugoslavia or Germany in group F at the World Cup



Ivic dismissed

finals and said Iran were "like a diamond that just needed to be polished". The defeat on Tuesday, however, was too much for his country's federation, even though Iran were without Karim Bagheri, a midfielder player, and Khodadad Azizi, a striker. Both played in the Bundesliga.

"Despite Ivic being an experienced and highly competent coach, he could not show the necessary efficiency in the time available," Mohsen Safaei Farahani, head of the federation, was quoted as saying. "Therefore, we came to the conclusion that, in the World Cup, he cannot coach the Iranian team in a satisfactory manner."

Farahani apologised for Iran's heavy defeat by Roma and said: "People must rest assured that we will not spare any effort to back up the national soccer team, a sign of which is replacing the head coach."

Iran's next World Cup warm-up match is against Internazionale in Milan on Saturday, and one person who

will not be disappointed by yesterday's news is Ivic's wife. She was told in January that she might as well stay home in Croatia as he expected to work "like a miner" until after the World Cup.

Three weeks ahead of the World Cup opening match, Fifa, the world's governing body, still does not have a long-promised video ready for referees and teams to show which kind of tackles will get an automatic red card at the finals.

The new tackle-from-behind ruling has been one of the most controversial issues in the build-up to the tournament and, two months ago, Fifa promised an instructional video. With most teams already deep into their final preparations, however, the video has not made it beyond Fifa's referees' committee — despite the urgency.

The video is expected to have some 18 tackles, to be divided into three categories — those showing tackles that should only be a foul, others that deserve a yellow card and a final batch that should see the red card produced.

Premiership gates climb to new high

ATTENDANCES at FA Carling Premiership matches passed the 11 million mark this season for the first time since the league was reduced to 20 clubs, new figures revealed yesterday.

The average Premiership gate was up from 28,434 last season to 29,189, an increase of 2.65 per cent, as the crowds continued to flock back to football in the wake of the success of the European championship.

The biggest increase was seen at Derby County (up 62.7 per cent) as the club pushed for a European place after its move to Pride Park.

Palace (up 36.67 per cent) also showed large rises despite their troubles.

Manchester United succeeded in attracting more than one million spectators to a ground for the first time (up 0.61 per cent to 1,048,185), while gates at Chelsea (up 21.85 per cent as renovation work was completed at Stamford Bridge), Sheffield Wednesday (up 11.74 per cent) and Wimbledon (up 10.02 per cent) also rose markedly.

The only losers were Tottenham Hotspur (down 6.19 per cent) and Everton (down 2.24 per cent).

Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League, said: "These figures, more than any others, show the continued success and popularity of the Premiership."

Foe unlikely to go to Old Trafford

MANCHESTER United will look at other transfer targets after Martin Edwards, the chief executive, admitted it was unlikely that they would sign Marc-Vivien Foe, the Lens midfielder. United have yet to hear Lens' response to their final offer, believed to be £5 million, for the Cameroon international, but Edwards is pessimistic about their chances.

The French champions want £8 million for the 23-year-old and Edwards is adamant that United will not go any higher. "I haven't heard from them, but if [the deal] is looking increasingly unlikely," Edwards said.

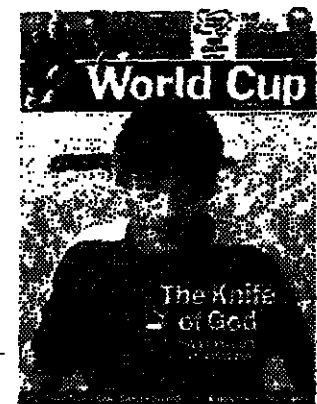
"We won't be improving our offer," United, who have paid PSV Eindhoven a club record £10.75 million for Jaap Stam,

the Holland defender, will now turn their attention to other players but John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, will fight any attempt by United to sign Dwight Yorke, the Trinidad striker.

"As far as I am concerned, Dwight has two years on his contract and he is not leaving," Gregory said. Jim Whitley, the Manchester City midfielder, has rejected an offer to play for Wales. Laurie McMenemy, the Northern Ireland manager, persuaded Whitley, 23, who was born in Swansea, to change his mind after Wales named him in their squad for the games away to Malta and Tunisia. Jeff Whitley, 19, also of Manchester City, the brother of Jim, has won two caps for Northern Ireland.

30p THE TIMES

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Baseball sets legal precedent that other sports may follow

Supporters starting to fight back in ticket war

The football supporter, as one dedicated fan remarked yesterday, is probably the most loyal customer to be found in any business. That observation, by Frank Gilmour, treasurer of the Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association and club season-ticket holder for 24 years, was delivered on the morning that the FA Premier League announced record attendance figures for the season just ended.

DAVID POWELL



Fernandez, who is bringing one of the lawsuits, said. What, then, should a football season-ticket holder have the right to expect? Gilmour recalled how, this time last year, he bought his ticket believing that he would see Les Ferdinand, Peter Beardsley and Robbie Elliott, whom he had enjoyed watching the previous season, only to find that, by the time the new campaign was into its stride, they had departed.

Adding to Gilmour's disappointment, Faustino Asprilla left midway through the season. It would be absurd to suggest that clubs cannot play

UP UP AND AWAY - THE PREMIERSHIP PRICE HIKE

Club	1997	1998	Change
Arsenal	£702	£808	15%
Aston Villa	£306	£374	22%
Blackburn Rovers	£345	£399	16%
Chelsea	£887	£1025	16%
Coveントリー City	£311	£347	11%
Derby County	£458	£470	3%
Everton	£285	£295	4%
Leeds United	£385	£420	9%
Liverpool	£300	£330	10%
Manchester United	£380	£399	5%
Sheffield Wednesday	Prices unavailable		
Southampton	£560	£396	30%
Tottenham Hotspur	£624	£710	12%
West Ham United	Prices unavailable		
Wimbledon	£480	£500	4%

All prices relate to most expensive tickets

the transfer market once the season has begun but Gilmour argues that clubs that make mistakes should offer a refund. "I am a publican and, in the retail business, you refund the customer if they are

not getting what they paid for," Gilmour said.

"Newcastle have gone from being a very attractive team to one that is dull and mundane because they no longer have those charismatic players," Sheila Spiers, of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), said. "It compares with the Florida Marlins to a certain extent but the football clubs are careful not to make statements like the Marlins."

At the heart of the lawsuits against the Marlins is the advertising and promotional material sent to prospective season-ticket holders. Spiers, a Liverpool season-ticket holder, said that the club sends out only a renewal form. However, Gilmour said of Newcastle: "In the last few years, they have put in a covering letter from the club saying that they are committed to providing high-quality entertainment."



The mid-season departure of Asprilla irked Newcastle fans

As rugby union follows the

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The new talk radio breakfast 1053/1089am

WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 44

BALDWIN

(a) A common variety of eating apple, also a tree bearing that type of apple. An eponym from a personal name. "Looking out through my study window, I see Mr Biglow busy in gathering his Baldwin's."

GLEE

(c) A blue-grey soil or soil layer in which iron and manganese compounds are red-oxided through being waterlogged. Also, such a soil mottled with brownish oxidised patches as a result of periods of relative dryness. A Ukrainian word for sticky bluish clay. "The words gley and glicification were derived from the popular Ukrainian and introduced into scientific terminology in 1905 by G. N. Visotski."

ALOCASIA

(b) A plant of a genus from tropical Asia cultivated for its foliage, closely and confusingly allied to colocasia. The name is said to be an alteration of the latter plant. "Alocasia should be potted before growth begins."

GAVAGE

(b) A method of forcible feeding by the use of a force-pump and a tube passed into the stomach. The word is French. Lawrence Darrell: "In goose country, where the practice of force-feeding geese (gavage) is in operation, there are always a goodly number of casualties."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qf6; 2. e6; 3. Kf2 (2... Kf3; 3. f7-h3; 3... Bc5... Also, 1. B7 is decisive.

Clamping down on crime

Crime Beat

BBC1, 8.00pm

Maryn Lewis is back to reassure us that, however bad the crime figures may seem, the police are doing a grand job. Or at least some of them are. The topic for tonight is car crime and the first good news comes from Leeds. Two years ago it was the worst city in Britain for such crimes. Now, thanks to a new closed circuit television system in the city centre, car crime is down by half. The police in Birmingham have a different approach. They have been handing out pictures of the most wanted and thieves and say that even the villains who have not been caught are keeping away. In Cardiff, meanwhile, the police chief has named and shamed the city car parks most vulnerable to crime, thus encouraging operators to improve security. Cardiff has also introduced Britain's first women-only car park.



Arctic explorer Robert Peary (9.30pm)

Ice Men

BBC1, 9.30pm

A three-part history of Arctic exploration starts with the story of Robert Peary and Frederick Cook, the Americans who each claimed to be the first to get to the North Pole. Peary, a navy lieutenant, made his claim in 1909. Cook, a doctor, returned that he had been there a year before. The arrogant and ambitious Peary was cast as the bad guy, and the affable Cook as the hero, until the University of Copenhagen did a devastating report on Cook's data. Peary's records were questioned in turn, though his graveestone in Arlington Cemetery calls him the "discoverer of the North Pole". Descendants of Peary and Cook revive the controversy, stubbornly insisting that their man was telling the truth, while Wally Herbert, the British explorer who reached to the Pole in 1969, adds his expert and unprejudiced gloss.

Short and Carries: I Love My Muz

Channel 4, 9.45pm

Just as writers will tell you that a short story is a more difficult assignment than a novel, so filmmakers can find a 15-minute short a greater challenge than a feature. The latest example of trying to use a small space to maximum effect is provided by a writer, Smitta Dhida, and a director,

Alick Riley, two of the emerging talents that this series exists to promote. Their subject is the relationship, by turns explosive and affectionate, between an eight-year-old Asian boy and his drug-addict mother who live in London. We observe them in their flat and on the streets, hear by proxy about the absent father, and are impressed by the director's ability to select striking images. It is an enigmatic piece, sometimes a shade pretentious, but it has enough promise to suggest that we will meet its makers again.

The Party's Over

Channel 4, 11.30pm

New Labour's honeymoon may have lasted much longer than the pundits expected, and political opponents hoped but in one area the romances have gone cold. As Tony Blair swept to victory, youth culture seemed firmly on his board. Dream provided the campaign theme song, *Things Can Only Get Better*, and Downing Street partygoers included Chris Evans and Noel Gallagher of Oasis. Then it all went sour, with Labour not only alienating the Beat but the old rock establishment as well. The Party's Over tries to discover how and why with the help of Helen Storey, the fashion designer, Wayne Hemingway of Red or Dead, Stephen Bayley who resigned from Millennium Dome project, and Will Self, the maverick novelist. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, appears for the defence. Peter Waymark

GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME

Radio 4, 6.30pm

The 6.30 comedy slot under the new schedules is proving a mixed bag but the return of this award-winning makes tonight a safe time to tune in. I remember calling attention to the first show in the first series, saying it had the strength of being an Asian comedy programme that would appeal to people from all backgrounds. Judged by the first programme in this new series, the same still applies. The opening sketch typifies the debunking approach of the writers, especially towards the fashion for all things Asian. A teenage son horrifies his parents by saying he wants to be a doctor. "How can you do that? Asians are cool, brown is the new black, doctors are square, also lawyers, accountants and tobaccoists."

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zeb 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce The Mix 8.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session 8.30 Live Music 10.00 John Peel 10.30p Maye Anya 1.00am Gino Wanen 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Johnnie Walker 11.30p The Double Decker 3.00 Eric 5.00 Stewart 5.05 John Durr 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 8.00 May to December 8.30 The News Muddle 10.05 Paul Gambaccini's Inside Track 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.05am Steve Hudson 3.00 Anna O'Han

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nelly Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruocco and Co 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 David Gower's Cricket Weekly. Includes a report from today's 1st One-Day International 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bown with the issues behind the sporting headlines. 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Paul Coyte 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.30 Ray Coles 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Calm Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkov 7.00 Anna Farburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawney. Mozart (Molin Concerto No 3 in G, K218); Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Rossini (La Danza); 9.00 Masterworks, with Henry Gore. Beethoven (Larghetto Overture No 2); Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 11); Josef Strauss (Waltz Dorfschwalbe aus Osterreich); Prokofiev (Symphony No 6); 10.30 The Piano: The Piano and Childhood (1) (1) 11.00 Sound Stories: Shakespeare. Music associated with A Midsummer Night's Dream 12.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi 1.00pm The Radio 3 Matinee Concert: Janie's Minstrel. Gurney (Ludlow and Terrie); Bux (Elegiac Trio); Smyth (Four Songs) (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra: BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Tchaikovsky (Daria, Paul Wallinga, cello, Martin Roscoe, piano. Lidov (The Enchanted Lake); Tchaikovsky (Variations on a Rococo Theme, original version); Glazunov (Symphony No 7); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor) 4.00 The Piano: The Piano and Childhood (1) (1) 4.45 Music Machine: The Indian Subcontinent 5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty looks at plants and their musical associations, with music by Ravel, Mozart, Britten and Strauss 6.00am Today, with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 9.00 The Candidates, with Jonathan Dimbleby 9.30 Strange Weather Days: Skyflight. Helen Young hunts for the aurora borealis in Scotland 9.45 Serlet. Ricardo 1 Say Goodbye (4/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 News: Woman's Hour 10.45 (LW) Cricket: England v South Africa. The first one-day international from the Oval. See Choice 11.00 (FM) News: Crossing Continents. Merle 11.30 (FM) The Table, by Alison Spitzer. Residents of a shared house go berserk when a couple move an old table into the communal hallway, with Louise King, Robert Bathurst and Tom Wall 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News: You and Yours 12.04pm (LW) Cricket: England v South Africa 1.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty looks at plants and their musical associations, with music by Ravel, Mozart, Britten and Strauss 2.00 (FM) News: The Archers (1) 2.15 (FM) Afternoon Play: Hombone's Day, by David Johnston. Northern Ireland is at a crossroads, and ten-year-old Pad's future is at stake. So he decides to keep a diary of the momentous events 2.25 (LW) Aggers on Tour. Jonathan Agnew presents a personal view of the England tour of the West Indies 2.55 (LW) Cricket: England v South Africa 3.00 (FM) News: Call You and Yours 3.30 (FM) The Last of the Mohicans: Mud-Horsensan (4/5) 3.45 (FM) An English Pastoral Anthology. The final recording by Sheila Gonet and Oliver Ford Davies

RADIO 4

4.00 (FM) News: World of Mouth: Say It with Flowers. Michael Rosen visits the Chelsea Flower Show to find out how flowers are named 4.30 (FM) The Saturday World, with Trevor Phillips 5.00 PM 5.58 Shipping 5.57 Weather 5.57 (LW) Cricket: England v South Africa 6.00 (FM) News at Six 6.30 Goodness Gracious Me. See Choice 7.00 News: The Archers 7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock takes cover as America awaits the latest monster movie blockbuster - Godzilla 7.45 Postscript: The Last Waltz (4/5) 8.00 News: Ascension Day Service. From the Church of St Martin in the Fields. Trilobal Square, with members of the chorus and orchestra of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Celebrate the Rev Canon Roger Royle, Proctor of the Rev Professor Keith Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity, Oxford Director of music Christopher Robinson 8.40 The Week in Westminster, with Steve Richards 9.00 News: Leading Edge. Groll Watts homes in on the most exciting areas of the research 9.30 The Candidates (1) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Kind of Loving. Sean Bean reads Stan Corlow's 1952 novel (5-1) 11.00 Late Night on 4: Buzsármány and Quartet Kingzale. Sketches and monologues written and performed by Jane Buzsármány and David Quartet 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30 (FM) Tales from the Book of Beyond. Jon Walsh and Jonathan Howard in Westminster 12.00 News: 12.30 The Late Book: About a Boy 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.48 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today. Agricultural news.

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.6. MW 1197, 1216. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. TELEVISION and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John Nicholman.

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